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# **Trends in Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Among Massachusetts School-Age Students**

*Results from the Triennial Prevalence Survey  
1999*

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Trends in Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Among Massachusetts School-Age Students* presents the results of the 1999 Massachusetts Triennial Prevalence Survey (MTPS). The MTPS collects information from a sample of public high school and secondary school students in grades 6-12<sup>th</sup>. Students are asked about the prevalence of, access to, and perception of risk in using alcohol, tobacco, and other illicit drugs. The information obtained in this survey assists in identifying the need for intervention programs, determining the effectiveness of existing programs, initiatives, and media campaigns, as well as developing new targeted prevention efforts. In 1999, a total of 6,980 students participated in this survey. Presented below are some of the highlights.

## **Alcohol Trends**

Although alcohol remains the substance of choice among adolescents in Massachusetts, there have been declines in reported use. In 1999, reported lifetime alcohol use decreased significantly across all grade levels, dropping to the lowest prevalence recorded by this study. There were also significant declines in perceived availability and intention to use alcohol in the future. The average age that students reported first trying alcohol rose significantly in 1999, indicating that students are waiting longer to experiment with drinking. This is a positive outcome since many research studies show that people who begin drinking in early adolescence are more likely to develop alcohol dependence in later life than are those adults who begin drinking at the legal age.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, those students who abstained from using alcohol were among the highest proportion of the sample reporting that they got good grades, planned to attend college, were satisfied with life, had families with clear rules about using alcohol, and thought regular drinking was wrong. These same students also were less likely to skip classes and less likely to get in trouble at school than their alcohol using counterparts.

## **Tobacco Trends**

Both lifetime and current cigarette use among Massachusetts' adolescents significantly declined across all grade levels in 1999, reaching the lowest reported prevalence rate in 10 years. Smoking prevalence among teens in Massachusetts dropped faster than the national downward trend, putting the state's students below their U.S. counterparts in lifetime smoking and level for current smoking.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, in 1999, fewer students reported the intent to smoke in the future, a greater proportion reported that their friends disapproved of smoking, more students indicated that their friends were non-smokers, and more said that they were bothered by being around cigarette smoke. Students who completely abstained from smoking cigarettes were more likely to get good grades, have college plans, and to be more satisfied with life than those students who reported using tobacco products.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Illicit Drug Trends

After increasing steadily since 1990, overall use of illicit drugs among Massachusetts' adolescents declined in 1999. Significant declines were reported in the use of inhalants and non-prescription tranquilizers across all grade levels. Massachusetts' students also found marijuana, amphetamines, cocaine, and narcotics as more difficult to obtain in 1999 than compared to three years prior. The major exception to this trend was MDMA (Ecstasy) whose use more than doubled and was judged as much easier to obtain in 1999. Additionally, although the prevalence remained low, smaller increases were observed for steroids and cocaine. Similar to those students who abstained from alcohol and tobacco use, those student who had never tried drugs were also more likely to have higher grades, more likely to plan to attend college, less likely to have skipped class or have gotten in trouble in school, and more likely to report higher life satisfaction than those who reported drug use.

<sup>1</sup> Hingson R.W., Heeren T., Jamanka A., Howland H., "Age of Drinking Onset and Unintentional Injury Involvement After Drinking," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 284(12):1527-1533, September 27, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse Monitoring the Future Study, conducted by Lloyd Johnston at the University of Michigan, Spring, 1999.

### Notes:

- For the purposes of this survey, lifetime use is defined as "used at least once within lifetime."
- For the purposes of this survey, current use is defined as "used at least once within the past month."

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# INTRODUCTION

## **What is the Massachusetts Triennial Prevalence Study?**

In 1984, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Education, began examining the prevalence of adolescent substance use through the utilization of the Massachusetts Triennial Prevalence Survey (MTPS). As the name implies, data are collected every three years from public high school and secondary school students in grades 6-12<sup>th</sup>. Grade 6<sup>th</sup> was first added in 1996. Also, questions regarding Ritalin and Heroin were added in 1999.

The results reported here are the findings from the sixth study in this series. The main objectives of this report are to describe adolescent substance use in Massachusetts, assess changes over time, and depict trends.

## **About this report...**

This report summarizes selected results from the 1999 Massachusetts Triennial Prevalence Survey. First, we present alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug prevalence estimates by grade level. This is followed by reported prevalence estimates broken down by demographic groups, specifically gender and race/ethnicity. We also compare the 1999 results to previous years' data to assess trends over time. Next, wherever possible, we compare Massachusetts results to national data.

## METHODOLOGY

A total of 6,980 students in grades 6-12<sup>th</sup>, from 169 schools in 106 communities across Massachusetts, participated in the survey. Data were collected over a five-month period from mid-October 1999 through mid-March 2000. School and class selection were random, participation was voluntary, and all responses were anonymous. Data were collected from students in a stratified random sample of classrooms in the state's public schools. The sample was stratified by county, grade, and percent of minority students within grades for each school. The sample was weighted in order to more closely match the population of public school students in Massachusetts. The table below depicts both the unweighted sample size and the resulting weighted percent for the demographic characteristics of student respondents broken down by grade and race/ethnicity.

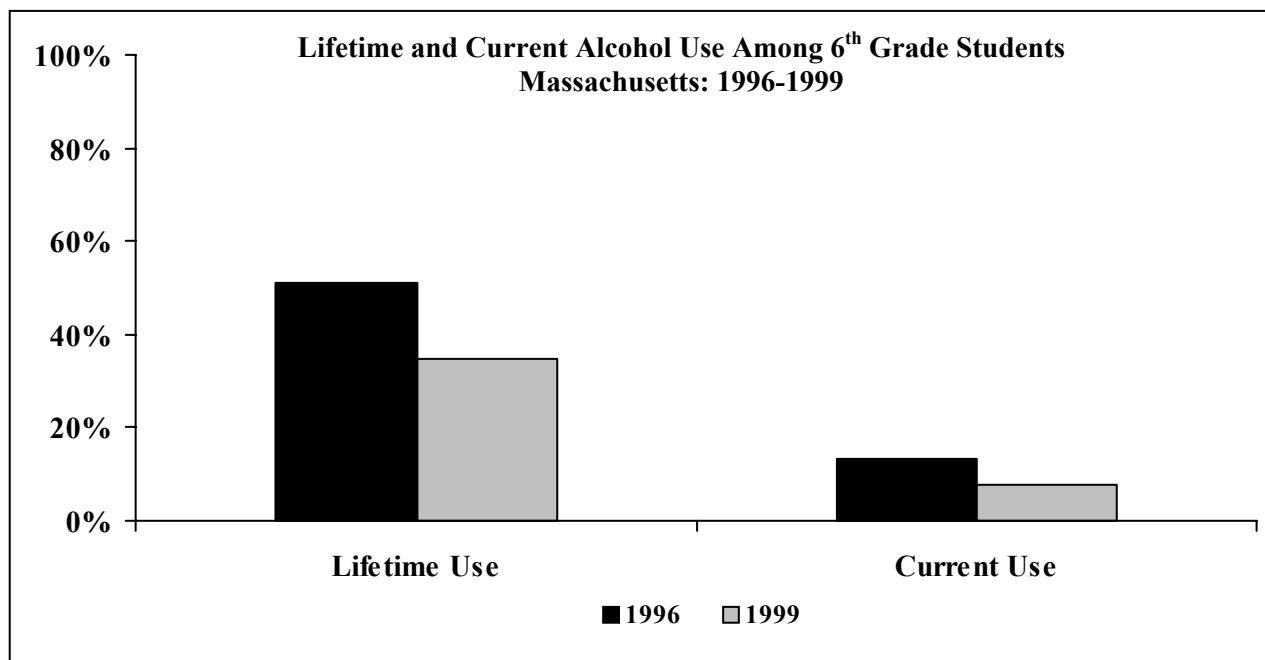
<b>Demographic Characteristics of Student Respondents</b>		
<b>Massachusetts Triennial Prevalence Survey, 1999</b>		
	<b>Unweighted Sample Size (N)</b>	<b>Weighted Percent (%)</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Grade Levels</b>		
Grade 6	1,154	15.5
Grade 7	1,171	15.3
Grade 8	1,183	15.1
Grade 9	926	15.7
Grade 10	970	13.9
Grade 11	864	12.8
Grade 12	712	11.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	4,424	77.4
Black	999	8.9
Hispanic	420	4.5
Asian	967	8.3
Native American	78	0.9

*\*\* The Native American student sample is too small for reliable estimation and is not presented in breakdowns within this report.*

**Statewide Demographics  
And  
Alcohol Use**

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE

Figure 1.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

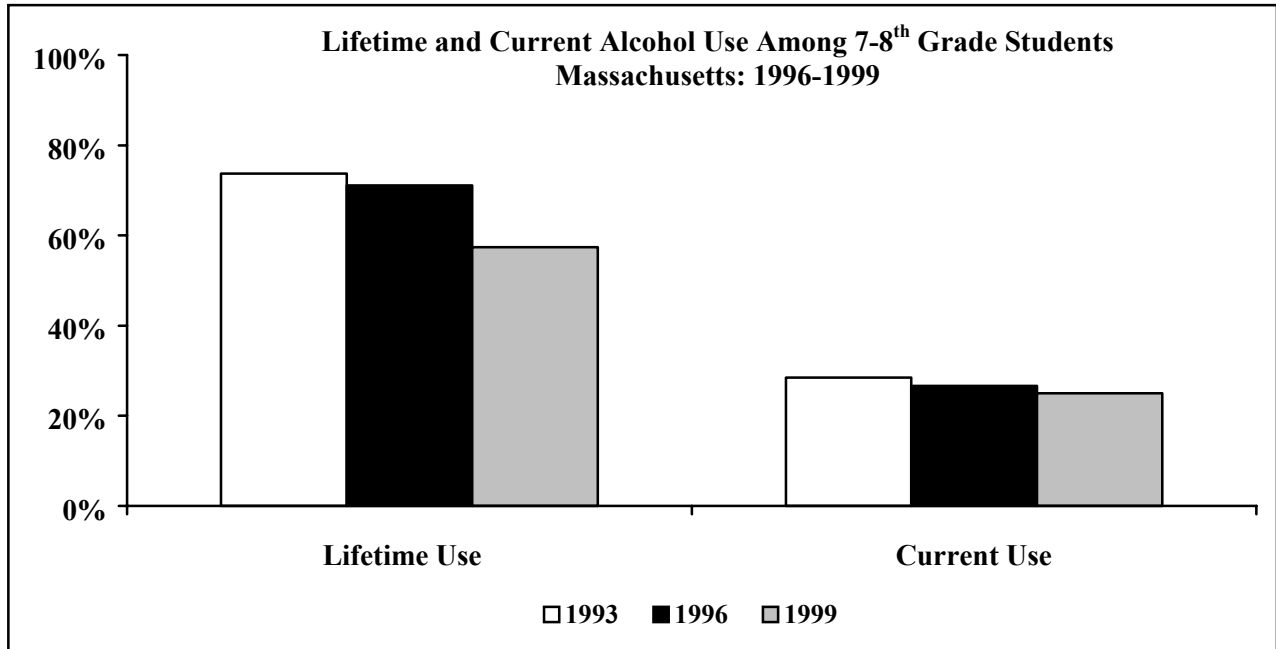
### Grade 6:

- In 1999, 35% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reported lifetime alcohol use, a significant decline of 31% from 1996 (51%).
- Similarly there was a significant decline in current alcohol use, with 8% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting drinking within the past month, as compared to 13% in 1996.
- In 1999, 3% of students in this grade level reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks), a significant decrease from 1996 (5%).
- In 1999, 89% of students in this grade level reported that they did not intend to drink alcohol within the next year.
- Over the past three years, students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade found it slightly more difficult to obtain alcohol. In 1999, 21% of students reported that alcohol is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get, as compared to 25% in 1996. "At home" was the most mentioned source of alcohol as reported by 13% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- There was a slightly greater proportion of students in 1999 (48%) than in 1996 (44%) who reported that "people greatly risk harming themselves" by drinking heavily (five or more drinks in a row once or twice each weekend).



## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE

Figure 2.



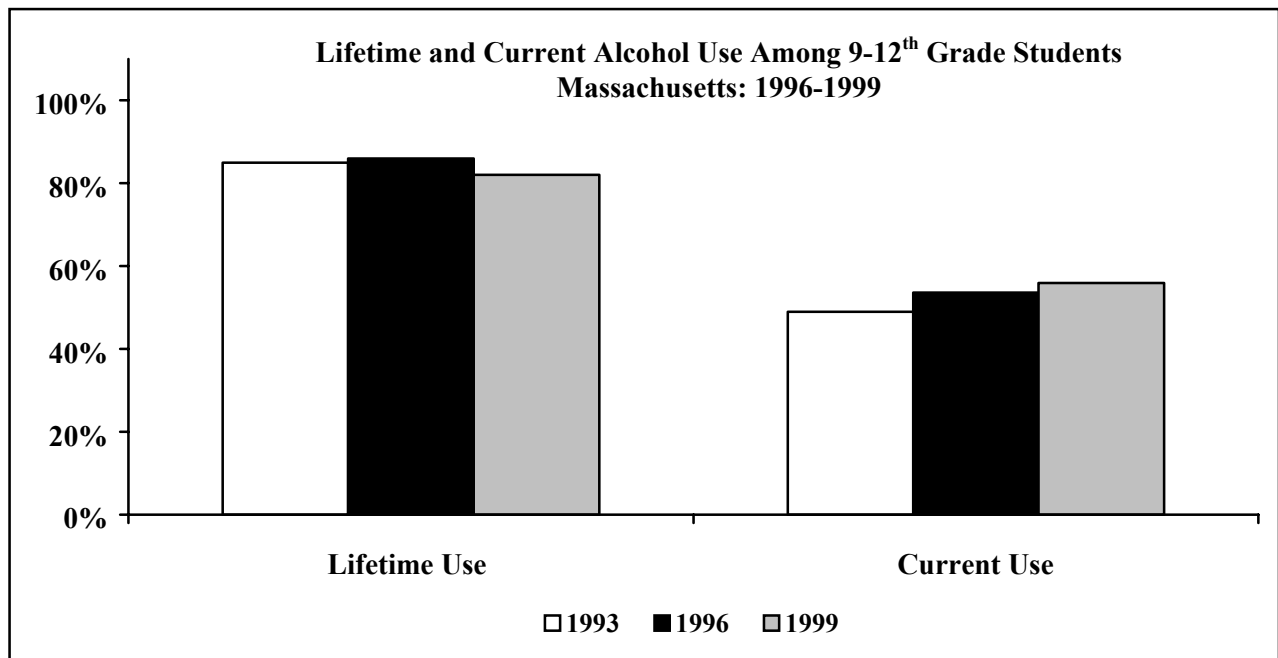
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime alcohol use declined significantly by 19% from 1996 (71%) to 1999 (57%), the lowest prevalence ever reported by this survey.
- In 1999, 25% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported current alcohol use, remaining fairly consistent with 1996 (27%).
- In 1999, 11% of this age group reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks), a slight decrease from 1996 (13%).
- The proportion of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that they did not intend to use alcohol in the next year increased significantly from 1996 (60%) to 1999 (66%), demonstrating that more students were deciding not to drink.
- Over the past three years, students in middle school found it significantly more difficult to obtain alcohol. In 1999, 45% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported that alcohol is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get as compared with 52% in 1996.
- There were slightly fewer students in 1999 (42%) than in 1996 (46%) who reported that "people greatly risk harming themselves" by drinking heavily.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE

Figure 3.



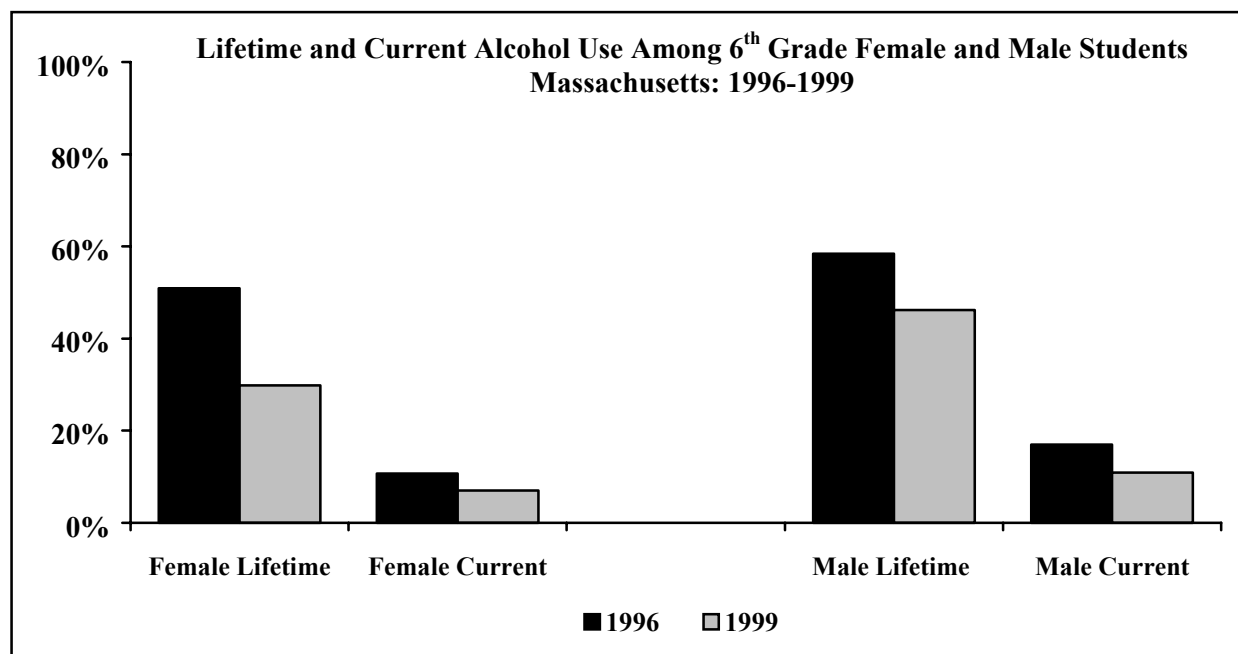
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- Among 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime use of alcohol significantly declined from 1996 (86%) to 1999 (82%), the lowest prevalence ever reported by this survey.
- In 1999, 56% of high school students reported current alcohol use, remaining fairly consistent with 1996 (54%).
- In 1999, 28% of high school students reported binge drinking (5 or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks), remaining fairly consistent with 1996 (29%).
- Between 1996 (31%) and 1999 (29%), slightly fewer 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they did not intend to use alcohol within the next year.
- The proportion of high school students reporting that alcohol is easy to obtain remained fairly steady from 1996 (80%) to 1999 (78%).
- There were slightly fewer 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in 1999 (34%) than in 1996 (38%) who reported that "people greatly risk harming themselves" by drinking heavily.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 4.



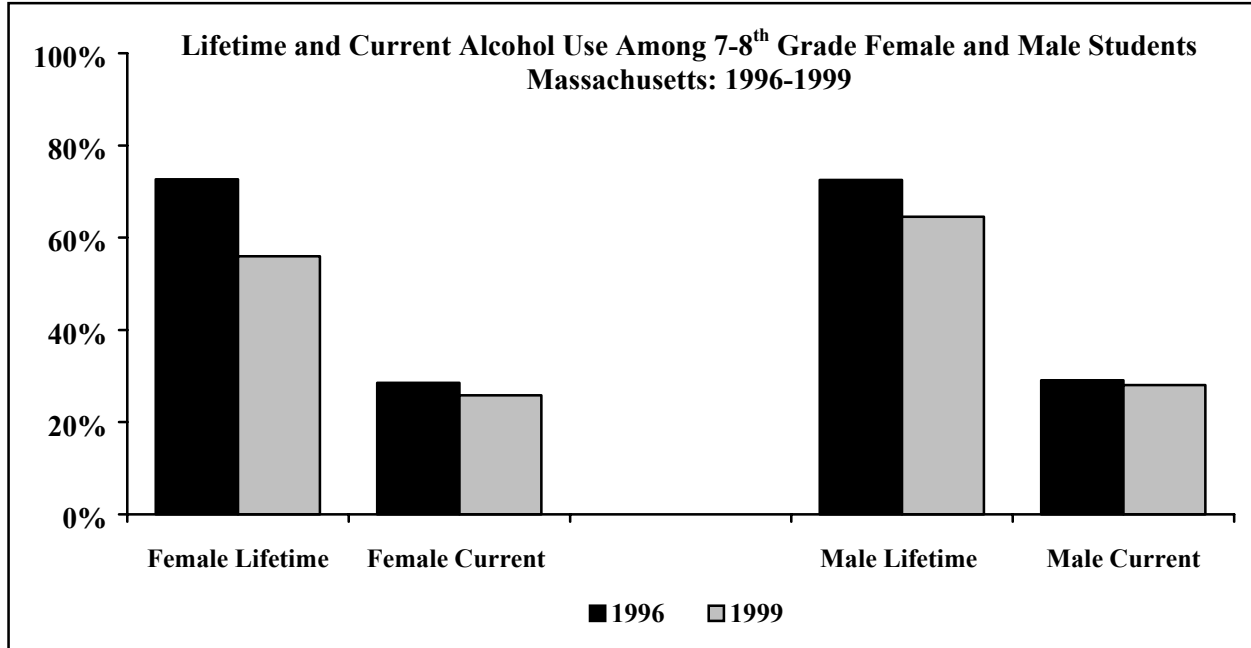
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – Lifetime alcohol use significantly declined among 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls with a 41% drop from 1996 (51%) to 1999 (30%). Current alcohol use also trended downward from 11% in 1996 to 7% in 1999.
- **Male Students** – Male students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported a lifetime alcohol use of 46% in 1999, down from 58% in 1996. In 1999, 11% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys reported currently using alcohol, also a slight decline from 1996 (17%).

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 5.



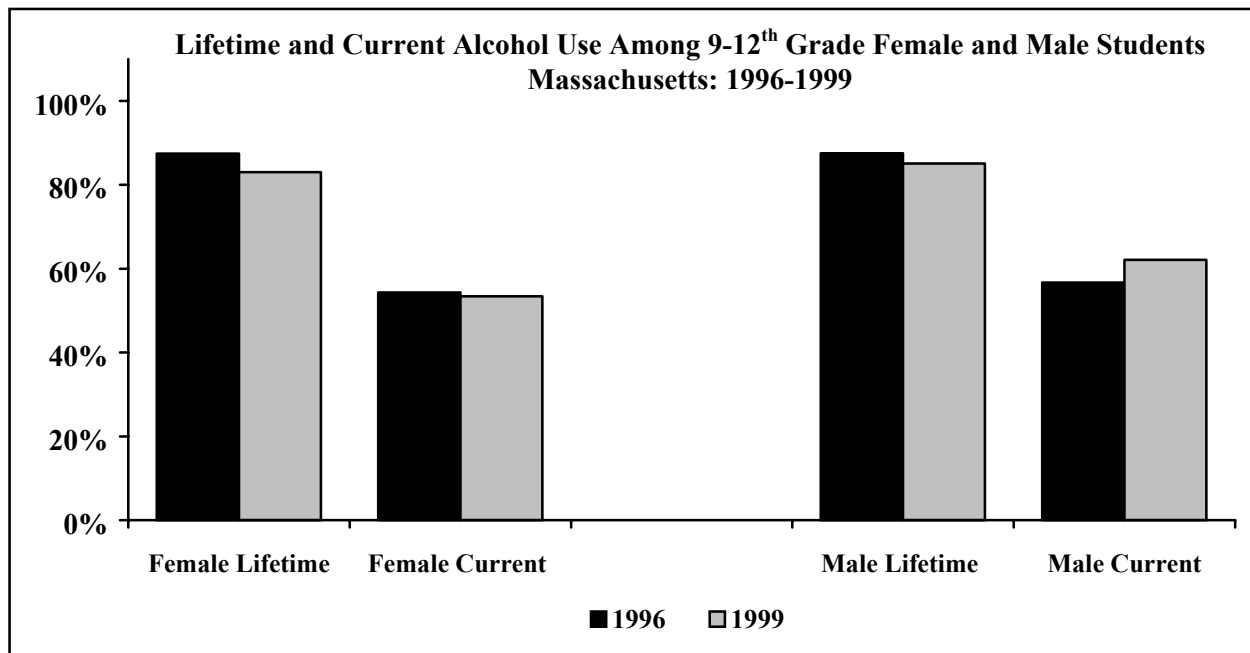
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Girls in middle school reported a significant decline of 23% in lifetime alcohol use from 1996 (73%) to 1999 (56%). Over the past three years, current use also trended downward from 29% to 26%. A somewhat lower proportion reported heavy drinking (five or more drinks in a row once or twice each weekend) in 1999 (9%) as compared to 1996 (13%).
- **Male Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, there was a significant decline of 11% in lifetime alcohol use from 1996 (73%) to 1999 (65%), while current alcohol use remained fairly consistent from 1996 (29%) to 1999 (28%). Heavy drinking (five or more drinks in a row once or twice each weekend) among male 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders remained level at 13%.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 6.



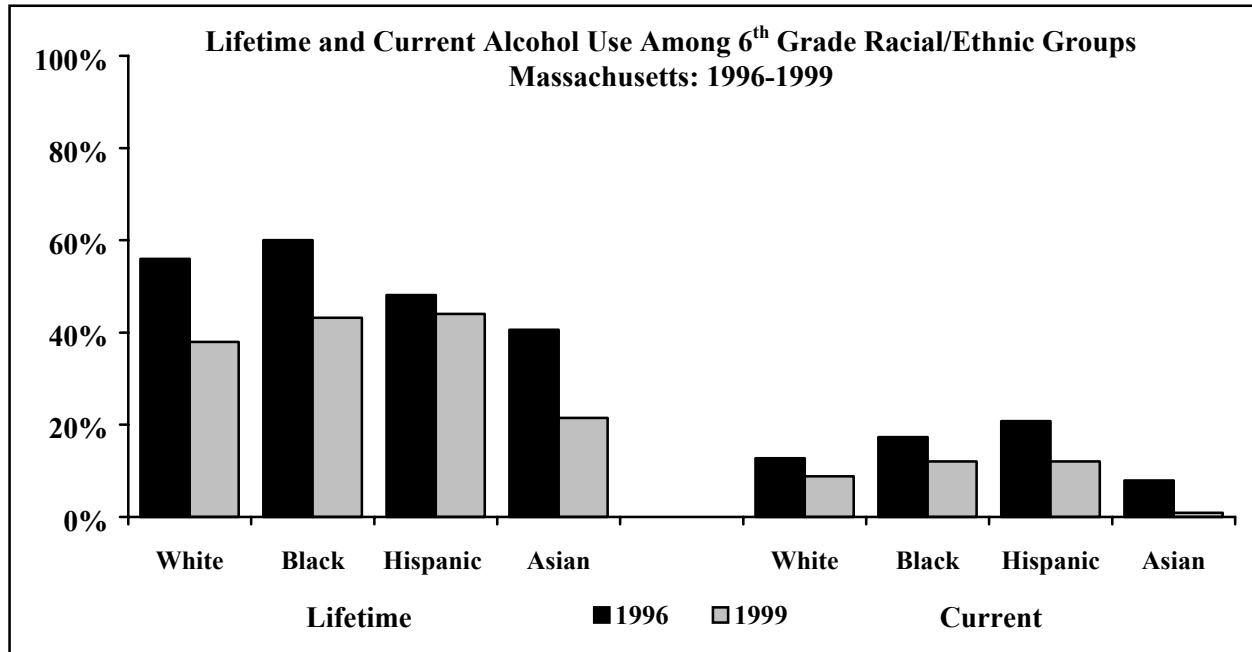
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Female high school students reported an 83% lifetime alcohol use, a significant decline from 1996 (87%). Current alcohol use however remained fairly constant at approximately 53%. Reports of heavy drinking (five or more drinks in a row once or twice each weekend) among high school females also remained nearly unchanged during the past three years (28%).
- **Male Students** – Lifetime alcohol use among 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade boys fell slightly from 1996 (88%) to 1999 (85%). Current alcohol use, however, significantly increased over the past three years from 57% to 62%. Between 1996 (36%) and 1999 (39%), reported heavy drinking (five or more drinks in a row once or twice each weekend) also rose slightly.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 7.



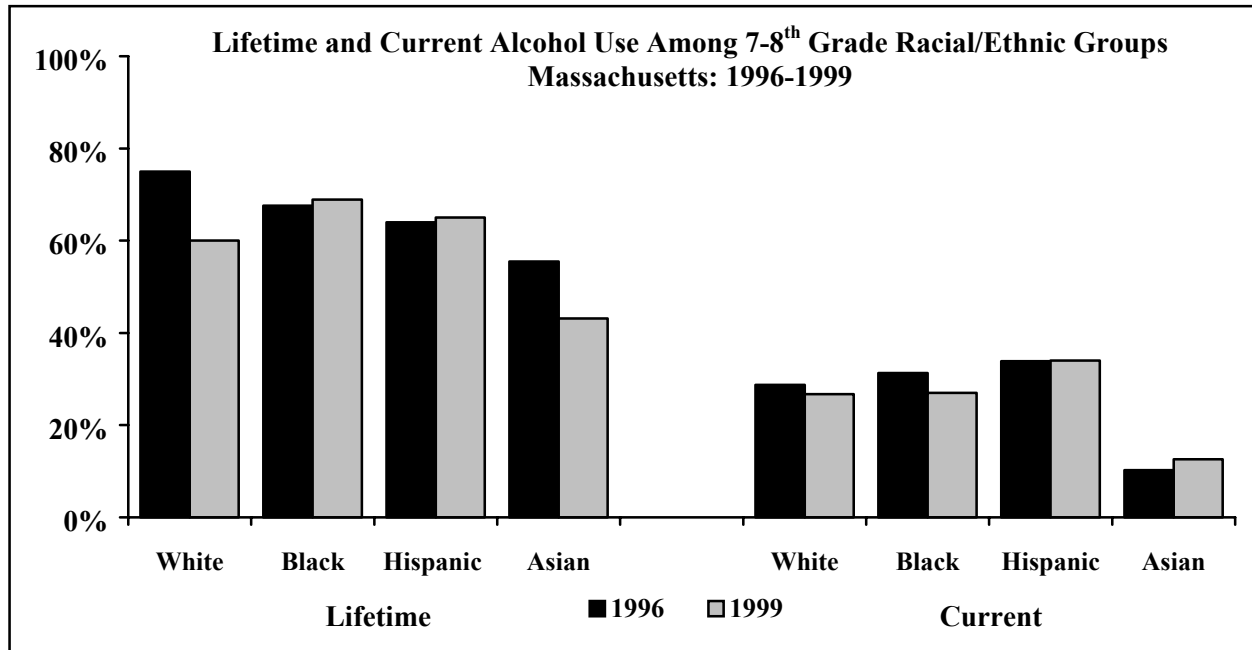
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – White students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported a lifetime alcohol use of 38% in 1999, down significantly from 1996 (56%). In 1999, 9% of white 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported currently using alcohol, a slight decline from 1996 (13%).
- **Black Students** – Lifetime alcohol use significantly declined among black 6<sup>th</sup> graders with a 28% drop from 1996 (60%) to 1999 (43%). Current drinking prevalence trended downward from 17% to 12%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 44% of Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a slight drop in lifetime drinking, as compared to 1996 (48%). Current use decreased significantly by 42% from 1996 (21%) to 1999 (12%).
- **Asian Students** -- Over the past three years, lifetime alcohol use, as reported by 6<sup>th</sup> grade Asians, dropped from 41% to 22%. Also, current use fell from 8% to less than 1%.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 8.



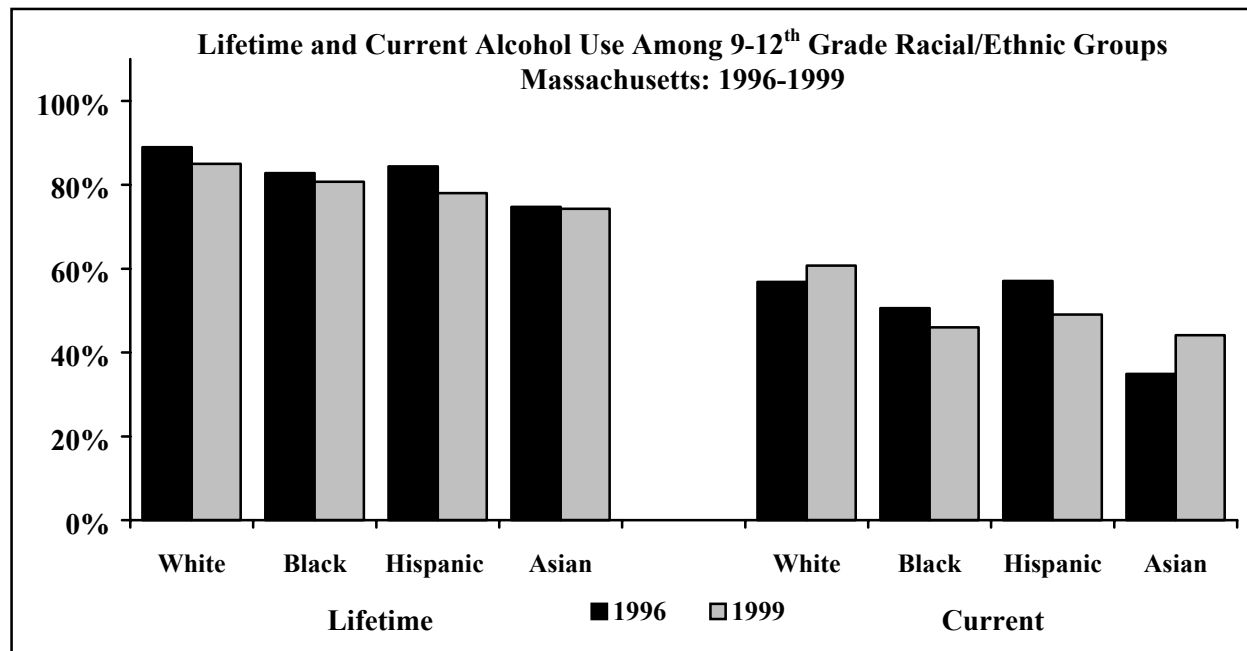
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – Among white 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, there was a significant decline of 20% in lifetime alcohol use from 1996 (75%) to 1999 (60%), while current alcohol use remained fairly consistent at 27%.
- **Black Students** – Black students in middle school reported consistent lifetime alcohol use from 1996 (68%) to 1999 (69%). However current drinking dropped slightly (31% to 27%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- Over the past three years, both lifetime (65%) and current (34%) alcohol use remained constant as reported by Hispanic 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- **Asian Students** -- Asian middle school students reported a drop in lifetime alcohol use from 56% in 1996 to 43% in 1999. Current drinking, on the other hand, rose slightly from 10% to 13%.

## ALCOHOL USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 9.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – Lifetime alcohol use decreased significantly from 1996 (89%) to 1999 (85%), while current use significantly increased (57% to 61%) among 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade white students.
- **Black Students** – Black high school students reported a slight decline in lifetime alcohol use from 1996 (84%) to 1999 (81%). Current alcohol use also dropped (51% to 46%, respectively).
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 78% of Hispanic 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported lifetime alcohol use, a decline from 1996 (84%). Current use also dropped from 57% to 49% over the past three years.
- **Asian Students** -- As reported by Asian high school students, lifetime alcohol use remained fairly constant at approximately 74%. There was a slight increase however in current drinking from 1996 (35%) to 1999 (44%).



Table 1.

**Lifetime and Current Alcohol Use by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1984-1999**

	<b>Grade 6:</b>		<b>Grades 7-8:</b>				<b>Grades 9-12</b>							
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
	n=1,121	n=1,154	n=262	n=734	n=785	n=1,954	n=2,046	n=2,354	n=5,078	n=1,549	n=1,334	n=3,367	n=3,633	n=3,472
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Lifetime</b>	50.9	34.9**	63.0	74.5	58.2	73.7	71.1	57.4**	89.8	91.1	85.1	85.0	86.0	82.0
<b>Current</b>	13.1	7.8**	25.0	28.4	19.5	28.5	26.6	25.0	58.6	60.5	51.1	49.2	53.6	55.9

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1984-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- Between 1996 and 1999, there was a significant decrease in lifetime alcohol use across all grade levels, and a significant decline in current drinking among 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Table 2.**

**Lifetime and Current Alcohol Use by Grade and Gender  
Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	Grade 6				Grades 7-8				Grades 9-12			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
	1996 n=563	1999 n=555	1996 n=558	1999 n=580	1996 n=995	1999 n=1,146	1996 n=1,051	1999 n=1,122	1996 n=1,895	1999 n=1,759	1996 n=1,738	1999 n=1,564
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Lifetime</b>	50.9	29.8**	58.4	46.2	72.7	56.0**	72.5	64.5*	87.4	83.0**	87.5	85.1
<b>Current</b>	10.7	7.0	17.0	10.9	28.5	25.8	29.1	28.0	54.3	53.4	56.7	62.1*

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- Overall, in 1999, boys in all grade levels reported either significant or slightly higher rates of lifetime and current alcohol use. Female students indicated a significant decline in lifetime use across every grade category, and male middle school students indicated a significant drop in lifetime alcohol use. In general, drinking trended downward for both genders across most grade levels, with the exception of high school boys. Males in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade reported the only significant increase in use, specifically current drinking rates.

**Table 3.**  
**Lifetime and Current Alcohol Use by Grade and Race/Ethnicity**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• White Students	56.3	37.8**	74.8	59.9**	88.6	85.2*
• Black Students	60.0	43.2**	67.6	68.9	83.8	80.7
• Hispanic Students	48.1	44.0	64.0	65.1	84.4	77.9
• Asian Students	40.6	21.5	55.5	43.1	74.7	74.3
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• White Students	12.7	8.8	28.7	26.7	56.8	60.7*
• Black Students	17.3	12.0	31.3	26.7	50.6	46.1
• Hispanic Students	20.8	12.0*	33.9	34.4	57.1	48.7
• Asian Students	7.9	0.9	10.2	12.6	34.9	44.1

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- In 1999, Hispanic and black 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported the highest lifetime and current alcohol use, followed by whites and lastly Asian students. Although lifetime alcohol use trended downward for Asians and Hispanics, only white and black 6<sup>th</sup> grade students indicated a significant decline in use since 1996. Current alcohol use declined significantly among Hispanic students, while use dropped slightly for the remaining racial/ethnic groups in this age category.
- Among middle school students, blacks and Hispanics reported the highest lifetime alcohol use. Hispanics also reported the highest current rates as well. Asian 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders indicated the lowest lifetime and current drinking rates. Only lifetime use among white students significantly decreased over the past 3 years.
- Among the high school population, white students reported the highest lifetime and current drinking rates. Whites also indicated the only statistically significant changes -- a decrease in lifetime and an increase in current alcohol use.

**Table 4.**  
***Average Age of First Alcohol Use***

**Massachusetts: 1999**

	9 and younger	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 and older
<b>Percentage</b>	16.3	8.8	10.0	16.2	17.6	14.3	10.6	4.7	1.2	0.3

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

Note: Percent of lifetime drinkers who began drinking at each age

**Table 5.**  
***Age of First Alcohol Use by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Grades 7-12***  
**Massachusetts: 1999, 1993-1999**

	Gender		Ethnicity				1993	1996	1999
	Female n=1,975	Male N=1,908	White n=2,635	Black N=567	Hispanic n=567	Asian n=200	Total n=4,101	Total n=4,314	Total n=4,039
Average Age	12.4	12.1	12.3	11.9	11.9	12.3	11.4	11.5	12.3

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

Note: Average age of first use for those students who reported having ever used alcohol

- The reported average age of first alcohol use rose substantially from 11.5 years in 1996 to 12.3 years in 1999. Since research has shown that earlier age of onset is associated with heavier substance use later, this change in the average age of first use may indicate changes in the level of student's alcohol use later in life.
- In general, males in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade began drinking earlier than females. Also, black and Hispanic students started drinking somewhat earlier than Asians and whites within these same grade levels.

**Table 6.**  
***Students Reporting Heavy Drinking by Grade***  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
<b>Number of Times in 2 Weeks</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
None	97.3	88.9	66.8
1-2	2.1	7.0	17.4
3-5	0.2	2.3	9.1
6+	0.4	1.9	6.7

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

Note: Heavy drinking defined as 5+ drinks in a row in the past two weeks

**Table 7.**  
***Students Reporting People “Greatly Risk Harming Themselves”***  
***Heavy Drinking***  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
n=1,121	n=1,154	n=2,046	n=2,354	n=3,633	n=3,472
<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>	
44.4	47.8	46	42.4	37.5	33.9

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

Note: 5+ drinks in a row in the past two weeks

- After rising from 1993 to 1996, heavy drinking leveled off in 1999 among students in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade and declined significantly among 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Table 8.**  
**Students Reporting that Alcohol Use Caused a Problem for Them, by Individual Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
7.4%	7.1%	7.4%	15%	18.9%	25.2%	23.3%	7.2%	20.5%

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*Note: Only includes those students who have used alcohol*

**Table 9.**  
***Students Reporting that Alcohol Use Caused a Problem for Them, Grades 7-12***  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Lifetime Alcohol Users</b>	4,032	17.0
<b>Current Alcohol Users</b>	2,503	21.2
<b>Heavy Alcohol Users</b>	1,358	26.8

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*Note: Only includes those students who have used alcohol*

- The proportion of students who reported that they thought that heavy drinking involves great risk declined steadily by grade, especially among the high school population.

**Table 10.**  
**Students Reporting Ease of Obtaining Alcohol by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1993-1999**

<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>			<b>Grades 9-12</b>		
<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
%		%			%		
25.4	20.7	54.9	52.3	44.9*	78.2	79.9	78.3

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

*Note: Includes students reporting that it is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get alcohol*

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

- Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade reported a substantial decline in the perceived availability of alcohol. The reported ease of obtaining alcohol remained unchanged among the high school population.

**Table 11:**  
**Students Reporting Intentions to Use Alcohol in Next Year by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
	%		%		%	
<b>"Definitely or Probably Yes"</b>	16.2	10.8	40.4	33.7**	69.1	71.2
<b>"Definitely or Probably No"</b>	83.8	89.2	59.6	66.3**	30.9	28.8

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

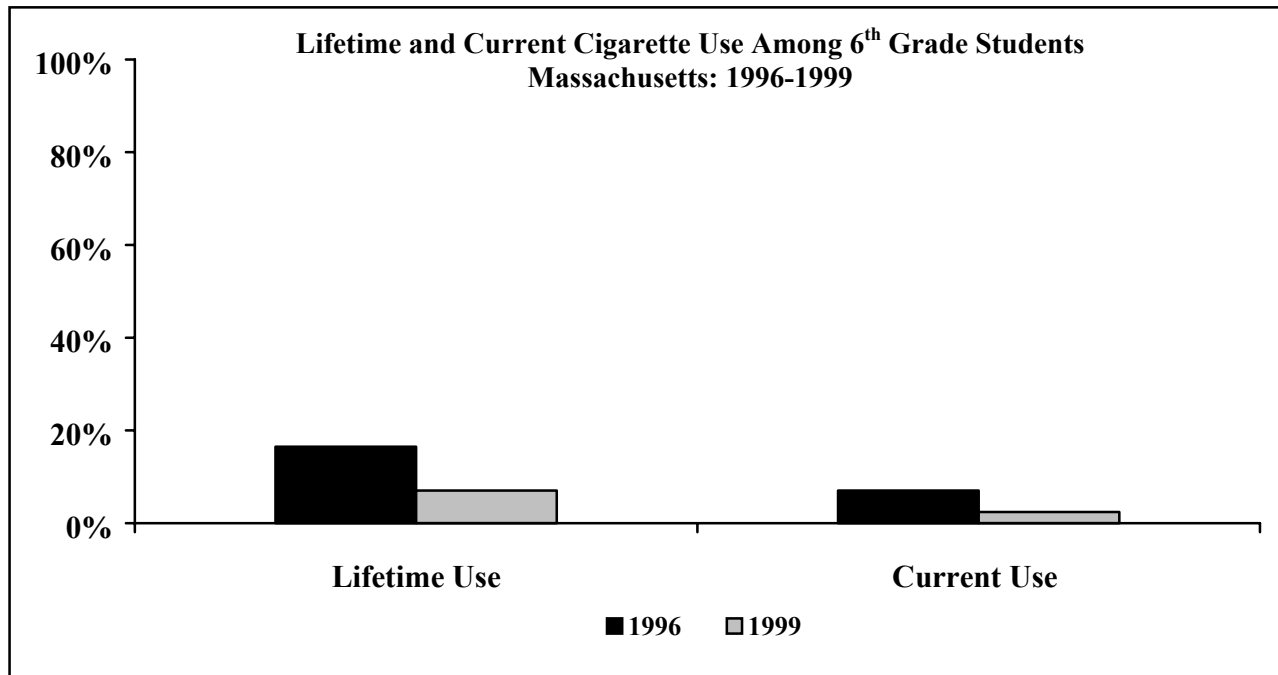
- In 1999, substantially more students in grades 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> reported that they did not intend to drink alcohol within the next year. The intention to use remained fairly level among students in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Statewide Demographics  
And  
Tobacco Use**



## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE

Figure 10.



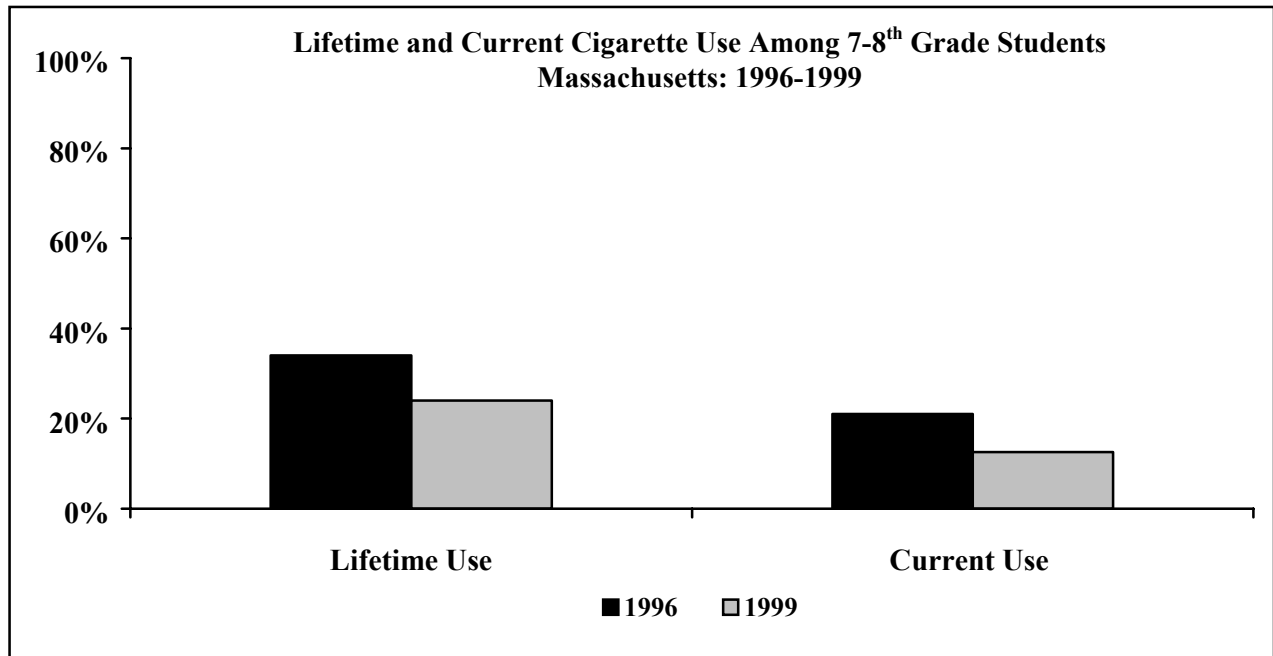
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime cigarette use declined significantly by 59% from 1996 (17%) to 1999 (7%). In 1999, over 97% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students said that they did not intend to use cigarettes in the next year, a significant increase from 1996 (92%).
- Current cigarette use also declined dramatically by 70%, with over 97% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting not having smoked with in the past month. Of those 6<sup>th</sup> graders who reported current use in 1999, 21% indicated smoking every day, while 65% reported smoking only a day or two out of the past month. The majority of students (76%) who reported current use smoked one or less than one cigarette per day.
- Compared with students in other grades, 6<sup>th</sup> graders thought that it was difficult to obtain cigarettes, with just 27% saying it would be "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get them. The most popular means of obtaining cigarettes was getting them from friends, with 83% reporting this as a source. In 1999, of those 6<sup>th</sup> graders who tried to purchase cigarettes, 84% reported that they were not asked to show proof of age.
- Almost three-quarters reported that there was great risk involved in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day, an increase from 1996 (66%). More than 91% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders also reported they felt that quitting smoking is "somewhat hard" or "very hard" to do.

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE

Figure 11.



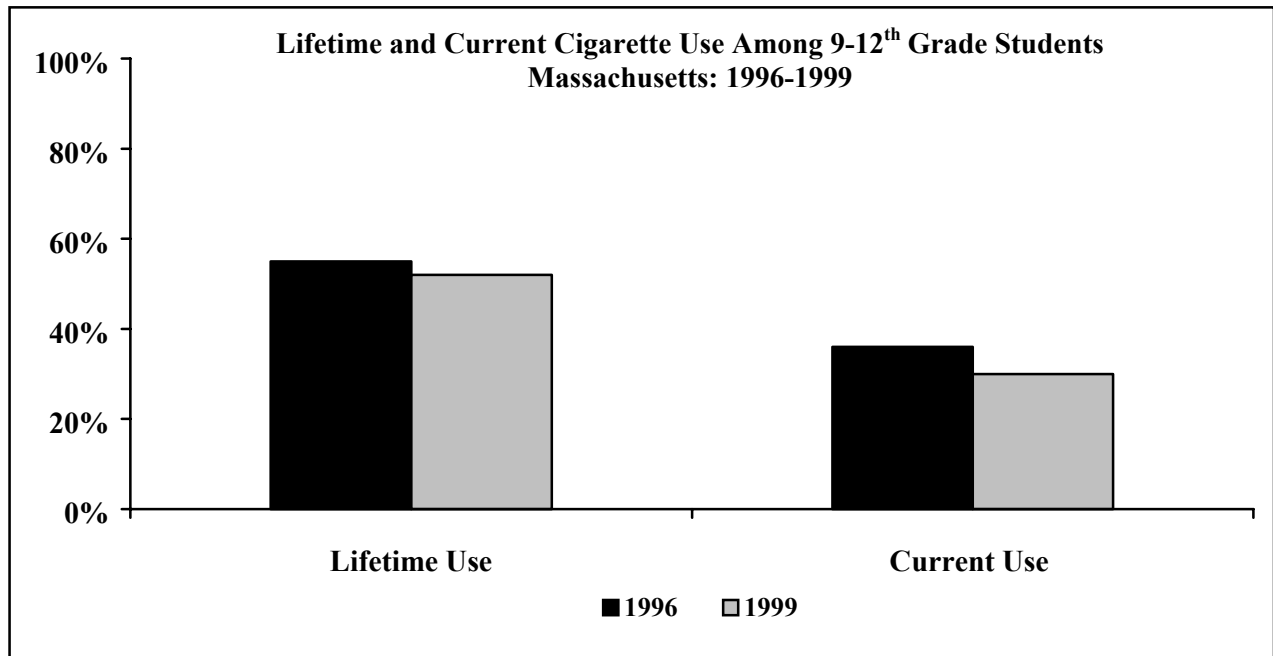
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- In 1999, 24% of middle school students reported lifetime cigarette use, a significant decline from 1996 (34%). Also, 86% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> students reported that they did not intend to use cigarettes within the next year, a significant increase from 1996 (79%).
- Over the past three years, current smoking also dropped significantly (21% to 13%, respectively). In grades 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 23% of current users reported smoking every day. Over half of those students reporting current use also reported having smoked only one or less than one cigarette per day.
- Cigarettes were judged as significantly more difficult to obtain in 1999. Slightly over half of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported that cigarettes were "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get, compared to 67% in 1996. Friends remained the most popular source, with over 88% of students reporting this as a source.
- In 1999, 66% of middle school students reported that there was great risk involved in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day, a slight increase from 1996 (61%). Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, 86% reported that they felt it is "somewhat hard" or "very hard" to quit smoking.

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE

Figure 12.



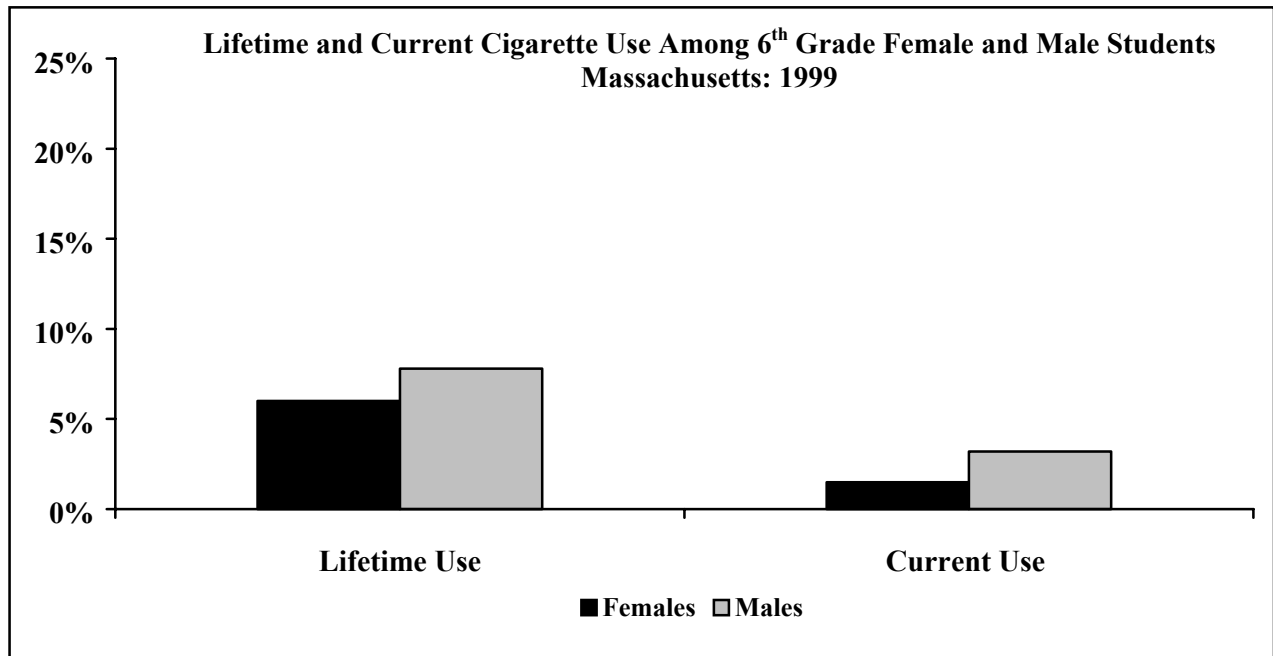
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- In 1999, 52% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported lifetime cigarette use, down slightly from 55% (1996). Over 71% of high school students also reported that they did not intend to use cigarettes in the next year, as compared with 68% in 1996.
- Additionally, 30% of high school students reported current tobacco use, a significant decline of 17% from 1996 (36%). In grades 9-12<sup>th</sup>, 42% of current users reported smoking every day. A third of these students reported that they smoked only 1 or less than 1 cigarette in a day.
- The proportion of high school students reporting that cigarettes were easy to obtain declined significantly from 1996 (92%) to 1999 (89%).
- In 1999, 66% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that there was great risk involved in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day, a slight increase from 1996 (63%).

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 13.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

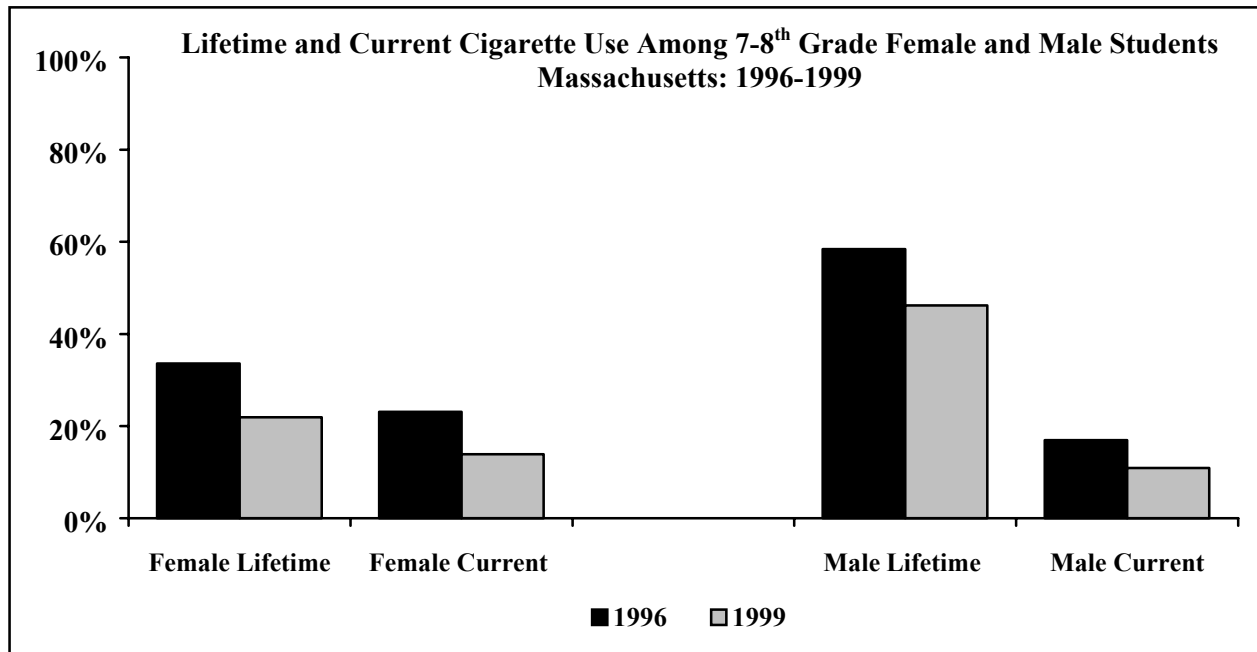
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to representation of small proportions*

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – In 1999, 6% of female 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using cigarettes in their lifetime and 1.5% reported current use.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 8% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys reported using tobacco at least once in their lifetime, while 3% reported current use.

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 14.



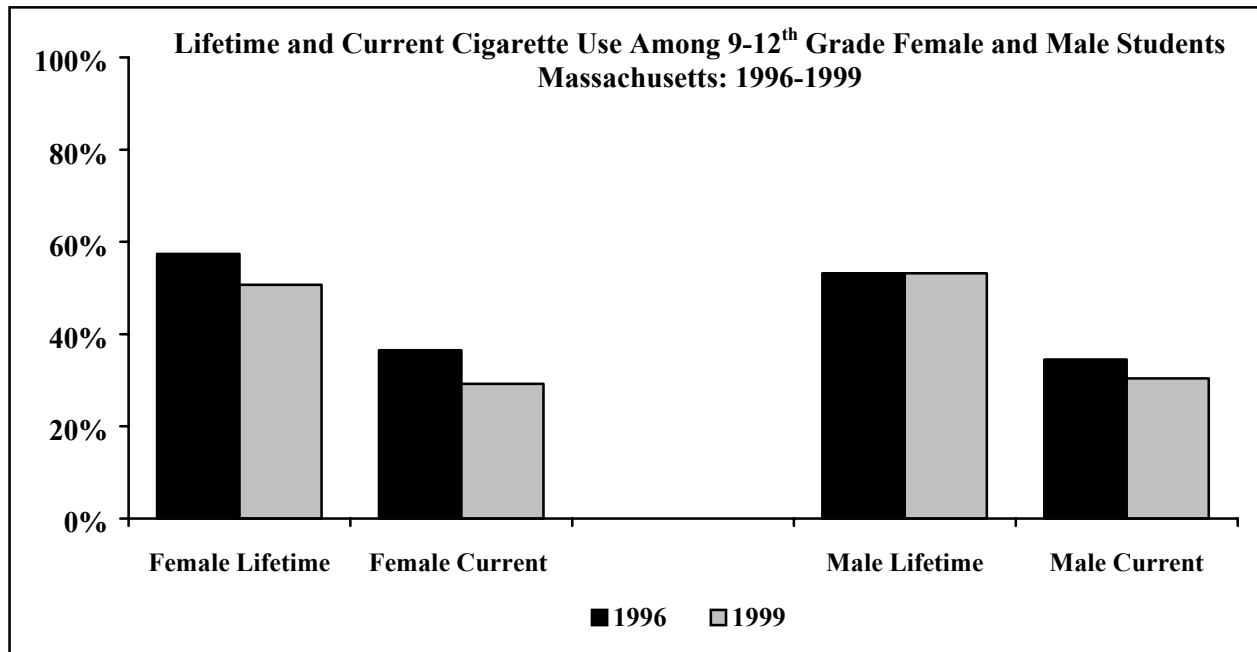
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – There was a substantial decrease in both lifetime and current cigarette use reported by females in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Lifetime use dropped by 32% from 1996 (34%) to 1999 (22%), while current use decreased by 40% from 1996 (23%) to 1999 (14%).
- **Male Students** – There was a significant decline in both lifetime and current cigarette use reported by 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Lifetime use declined by 26% from 1996 (34%) to 1999 (26%), while current use declined by 42% (19% to 11%, respectively).

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 15.



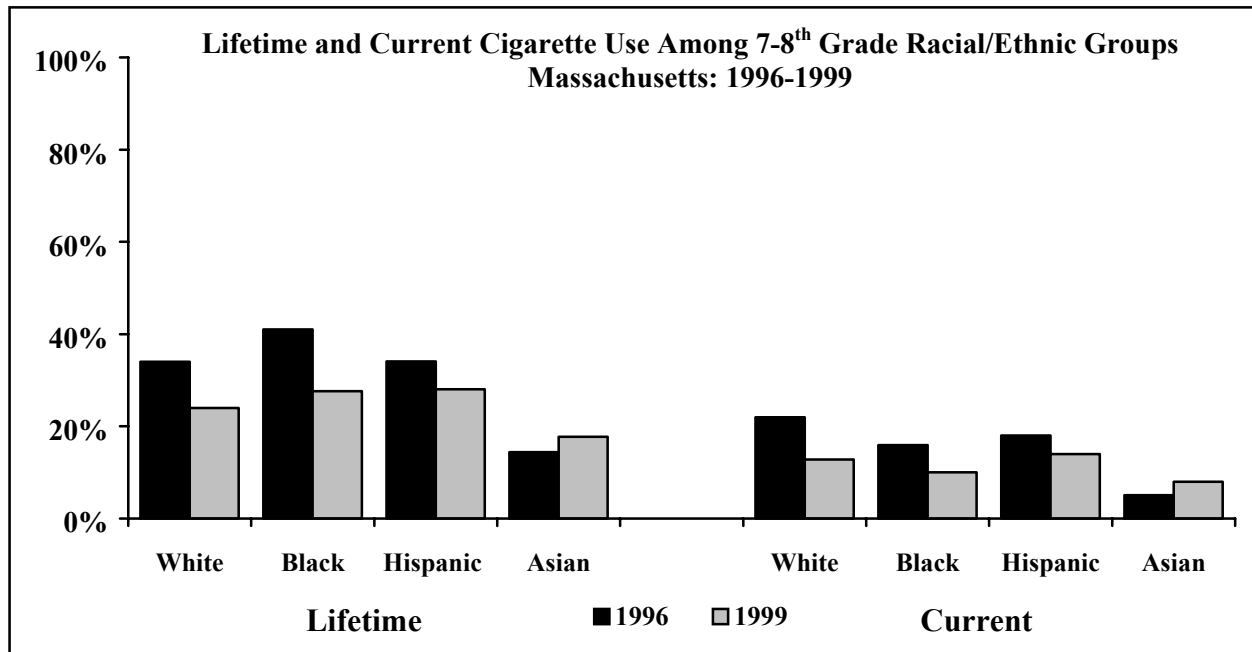
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Both lifetime and current cigarette use significantly declined among high school girls. From 1996 (57%) to 1999 (51%), reported lifetime cigarette use decreased by 12%. Current use dropped to 29%, down significantly from 37% in 1996.
- **Male Students** – Among male high school students, lifetime cigarette use remained constant at approximately 53%. Current cigarette use dropped slightly from 1996 (35%) to 1999 (30%).

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 16.



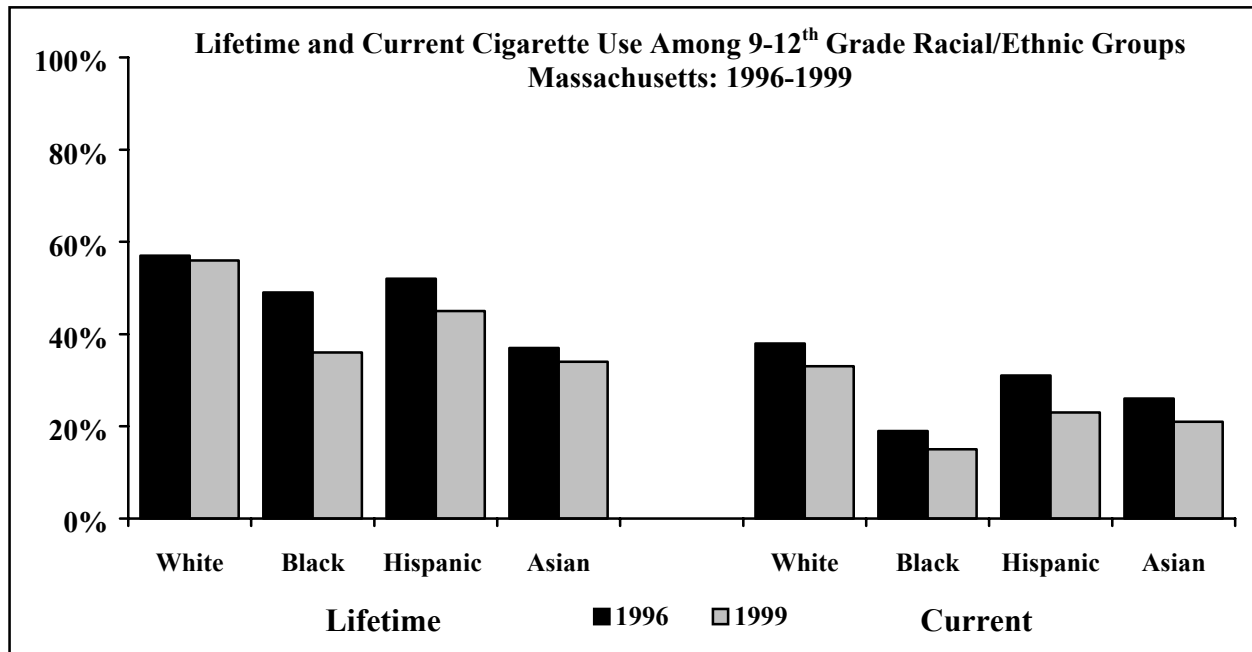
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – There was a significant decline in both lifetime and current cigarette use reported by white 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Lifetime use declined by 30% from 1996 (34%) to 1999 (24%), while current use declined by 42% from 1996 (22%) to 1999 (13%).
- **Black Students** – There was also a substantial decrease in both lifetime and current cigarette use reported by 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade black students. Lifetime use dropped by 33% from 1996 (41%) to 1999 (28%), and current use decreased by 37% from 1996 (16%) to 1999 (10%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 28% of middle school Hispanics reported smoking a cigarette at least once in their lifetime, a slight decline from 1996 (34%). Current rates also trended downward from 18% to 14%.
- **Asian Students** -- Lifetime cigarette use trended upward from 1996 (14%) to 1999 (18%), as did current use (5% to 8%) among 7-8<sup>th</sup> Asian students.

## TOBACCO USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 17.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – Among white high school students, lifetime cigarette use remained fairly constant at 56% over the past three years, while current cigarette use dropped significantly from 1996 (38%) to 1999 (33%).
- **Black Students** – Lifetime cigarette use significantly declined by 26% among black high school students from 1996 (49%) to 1999 (36%). In 1999, current use dropped to 15%, down slightly from rates reported in 1996 (19%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- There was a downward trend in both lifetime and current cigarette use as reported by Hispanic high school students. Lifetime use declined from 1996 (52%) to 1999 (45%), while current use dropped from 31% to 23%.
- **Asian Students** -- Asian students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade also reported a downward trend in overall smoking prevalence. Lifetime use declined slightly from 1996 (37%) to 1999 (34%), as did current use (26% to 21%, respectively).



**Table 12.**  
**Lifetime and Current Cigarette Use by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grade 6:</b>		<b>Grades 7-8:</b>		<b>Grades 9-12:</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
	n=1,121	n=1,154	n=2,046	n=2,354	n=3,633	n=3,472
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	16.5	7.0**	34.0	24.0**	55.4	52.0
<b>Current Use</b>	8.1	2.4**	21.0	12.6**	35.6	29.9**

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- After leveling off from 1993 to 1996, the overall rate of cigarette smoking among Massachusetts' adolescents declined substantially in 1999. There was a significant decline in lifetime use among lower grades and significant declines in current smoking across all grades.

**Table 13.**  
**Lifetime and Current Cigarette Use by Grade and Gender**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	Grade 6				Grades 7-8				Grades 9-12			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
	---	n=555	---	n=580	n=995	n=1,146	n=1,051	n=1,122	n=1,895	n=1,759	n=1,738	n=1,564
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	---	6.0	---	7.8	33.6	21.9**	34.4	25.5**	57.4	50.7*	53.2	53.2
<b>Current Use</b>	---	1.5	---	3.2	23.1	13.9**	19.0	11.1**	36.5	29.2**	34.5	30.4

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- In general, male students reported higher lifetime smoking prevalences than female students across all grade levels. On the other hand, reported current smoking rates remained fairly consistent between boys and girls, particularly in the higher grades. Within the declining student smoking trend, decreases tended to be more pronounced among females across all grade levels. From 1996 to 1999, both males and females in grades 7-8<sup>th</sup> reported substantial and significant declines in lifetime and past month cigarette use, with the decrease somewhat more pronounced among female students. Only high school females demonstrated significant declines in smoking.

**Table 14.**  
**Lifetime and Current Cigarette Use by Grade and Race/Ethnicity**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• White Students	33.5	23.5**	57.1	55.5
• Black Students	41.0	27.6**	48.8	36.1**
• Hispanic Students	34.1	27.6	52.4	45.1
• Asian Students	14.4	17.7	36.7	33.8
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• White Students	22.0	12.8**	38.0	33.0
• Black Students	15.9	10.0*	18.8	15.3
• Hispanic Students	18.1	13.8	30.6	22.6
• Asian Students	5.1	8.0	25.7	21.3

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

- In 1999, white and black middle school students reported the greatest declines and the only statistically significant declines in both lifetime and current smoking. Hispanic and black 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders demonstrated the highest lifetime use, while whites and Hispanics reported the highest use within the past month. Although use rose slightly for Asian students, they still reported the lowest lifetime and current cigarette use of all the racial/ethnic groups.
- Among the high school population, white students reported the highest lifetime and current smoking prevalence. Overall smoking rates trended downward across all the racial/ethnic groups, with lifetime use dropping significantly for black 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Table 15.**  
**Average Age of First Cigarette Use**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	9 and younger	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 and older
<b>Percentage</b>	12.5	8.9	10.9	21.2	20.0	13.1	8.4	3.5	1.3	0.1

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*Note: Percent of lifetime smokers who began smoking at each age*

**Table 16.**  
**Age of First Cigarette Use by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Grades 7-12**  
**Massachusetts: 1999, 1996-1999**

	Gender		Ethnicity				1996	1999
	Female n=1,123	Male n=1,064	White n=1,590	Black n=257	Hispanic n=295	Asian n=100	Total N=2,560	Total n=2,293
Average Age	12.4	12.1	12.3	11.9	12.1	12.6	12.2	12.2

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

*Note: Average age of first use in years for those students who reported having ever smoked*

- Between 1996 and 1999, the average age of first cigarette use held steady at 12.2 years.
- On average, female students started smoking later than males. Additionally, Asian students reported the latest average age of first cigarette use, while black 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders had the earliest average age of onset.

**Table 17.**  
**Students Reporting that People “Greatly Risk Harming Themselves” by Heavy Smoking**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
<b>6</b>				
<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
n=1,154	n=2,047	n=2,354	n=3,637	n=3,472
%	%		%	
73.8	60.8	65.9	62.8	65.5

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

*Note: Heavy smoking defined as one of more packs per day*

- The overall perception of risk rose substantially with Two out of three 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that there was “great risk” in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day. The perception of risk was the lowest among 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Table 18.**  
**Students Reporting that Tobacco Use Caused a Problem for Them, by Individual Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
1.6%	4.4%	5.5%	9.3%	6.6%	11.9%	13.1%	5.0%	10.0%

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

**Table 19.**  
**Student Smokers Reporting that Tobacco Use Caused a Problem for Them, Grades 7-12**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	<b>Grades 7-8</b> n=2,354	<b>Grades 9-12</b> n=3,472
<b>Lifetime Smokers Only</b>	22.4%	23.9%
<b>Current Smokers Only</b>	23.5%	23.6%

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*Note: Only includes those students who have used tobacco.*

**Table 20.**  
**Students Reporting Ease of Obtaining Cigarettes by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1999, 1996-1999**

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
							<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
27.3%	41.7%	67.2%	81.0%	88.3%	94.5%	94.9%	66.9%	54.2%**	92.2%	89.1%**

*Note: Includes students reporting that it is “very easy” or “fairly easy” to get cigarettes.*

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)

**Table 21.**  
**Students Reporting Intentions to Smoke Cigarettes in Next Year by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>	
<b>“Definitely or Probably Yes”</b>	8.5	2.7**	20.9	13.7**	31.6	28.4
<b>“Definitely or Probably No”</b>	91.5	97.3**	79.1	86.3**	68.4	71.6

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)

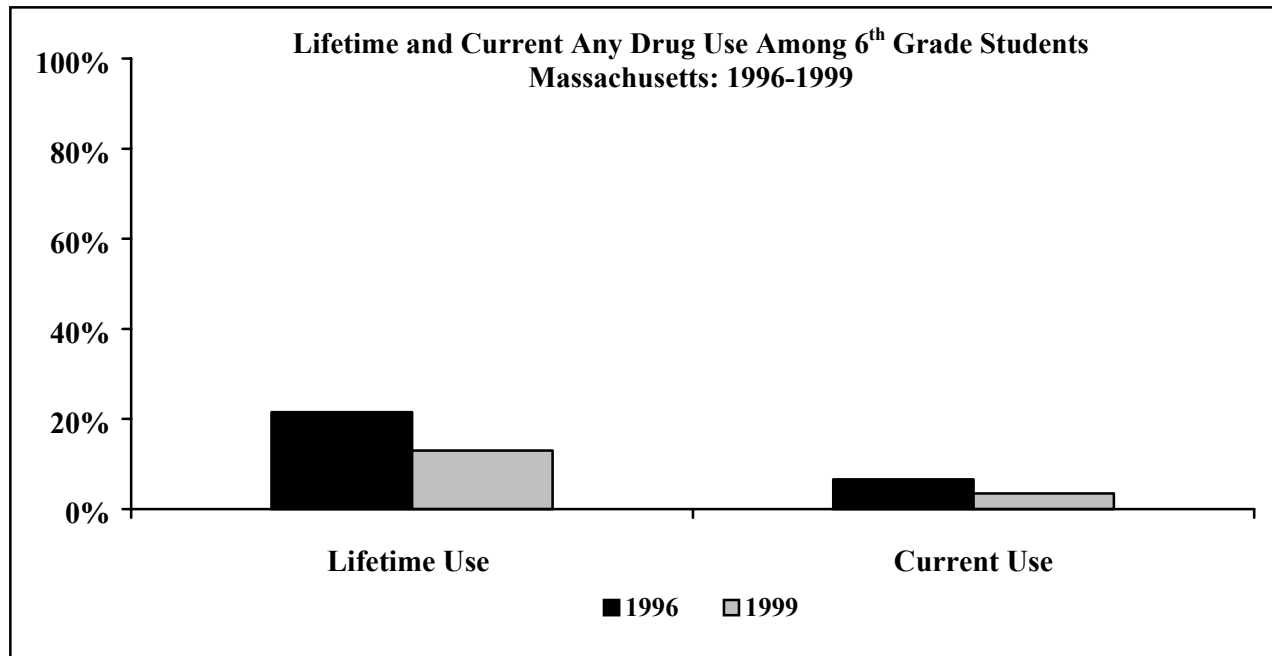
- Significantly fewer students reported intending to smoke within the next year, especially those students in the younger grades.

**Statewide Demographics  
And  
Illicit Drug Use**



## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE

Figure 18.



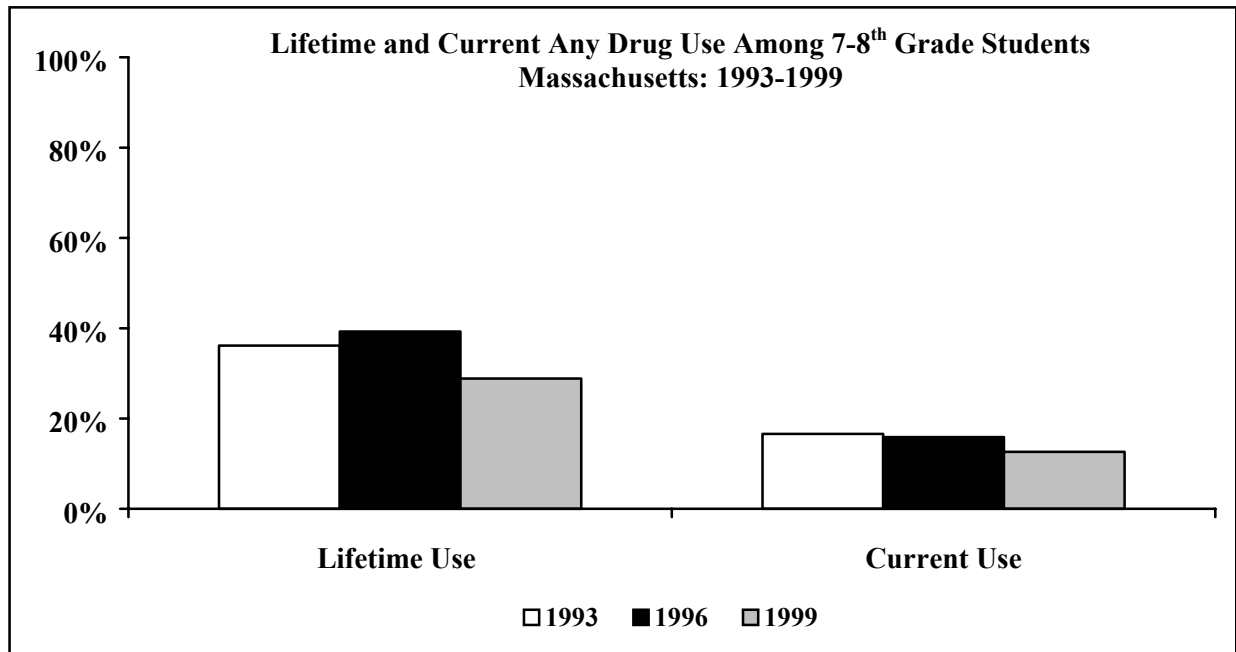
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) declined significantly by 40% from 1996 (22%) to 1999 (13%). In grade 6<sup>th</sup>, 87% of students reported never having used any drug.
- Between 1996 and 1999, current use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) trended downward from 7% to 4% among 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- In 1999, 97% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they did not intend to use any drugs (other than alcohol and tobacco) in the next year, a significant increase from 1996 (95%).

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE

Figure 19.



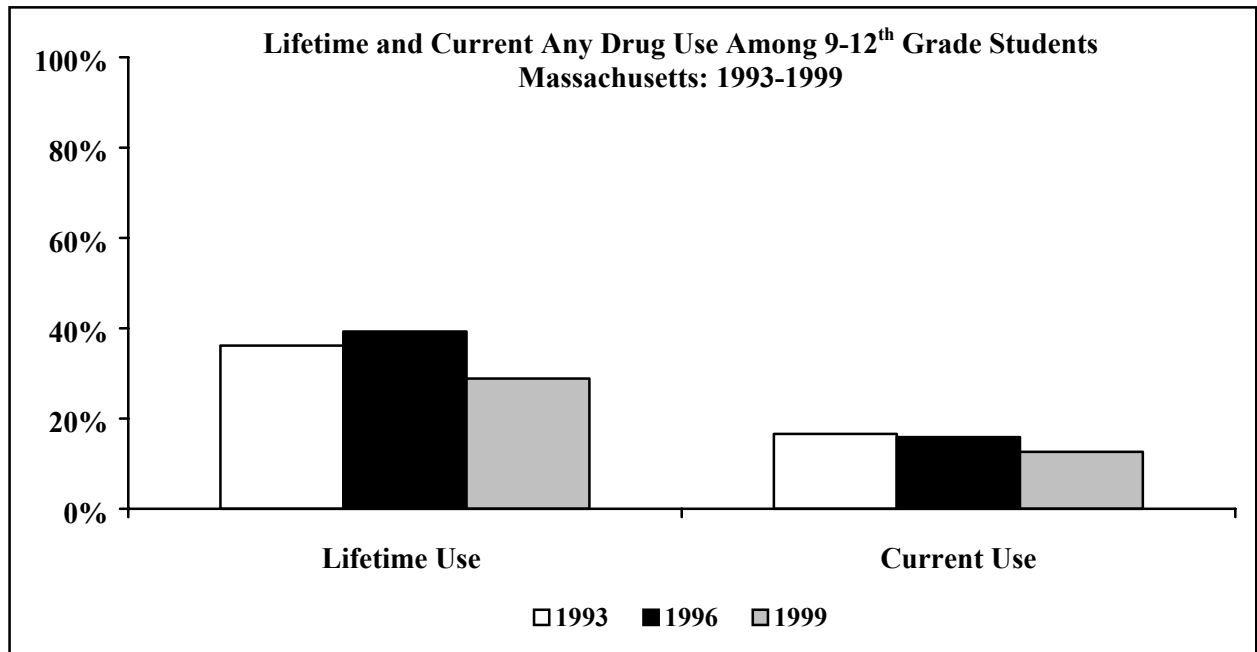
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- A significant decline of 26% was observed in the lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) from 1996 (39%) to 1999 (29%). Over 70% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, reported never having used a drug other than alcohol or tobacco.
- Additionally, in the past three years, current any drug use (other than alcohol and tobacco) among middle school students trended downward from 16% to 13%, respectively.
- In 1999, 86% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported that they did not intend to use drugs in the next year, as compared to 1996 (84%).

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE

Figure 20.



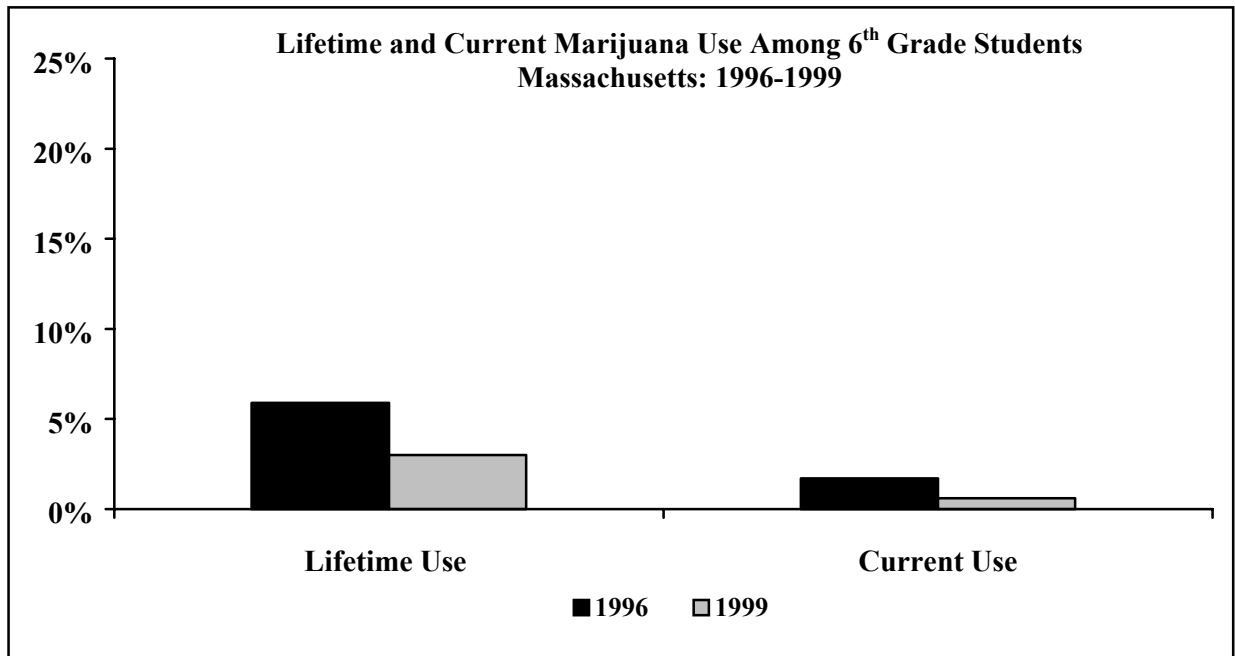
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- Among high school students, lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) decreased significantly from 1996 (62%) to 1999 (57%).
- Over the past three years, current use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) dropped slightly from 37% to 34%.
- *Between 1996 and 1999, the proportion of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that they did not intend to use drugs within the following year remained constant at approximately 60%.*

## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE

Figure 21.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

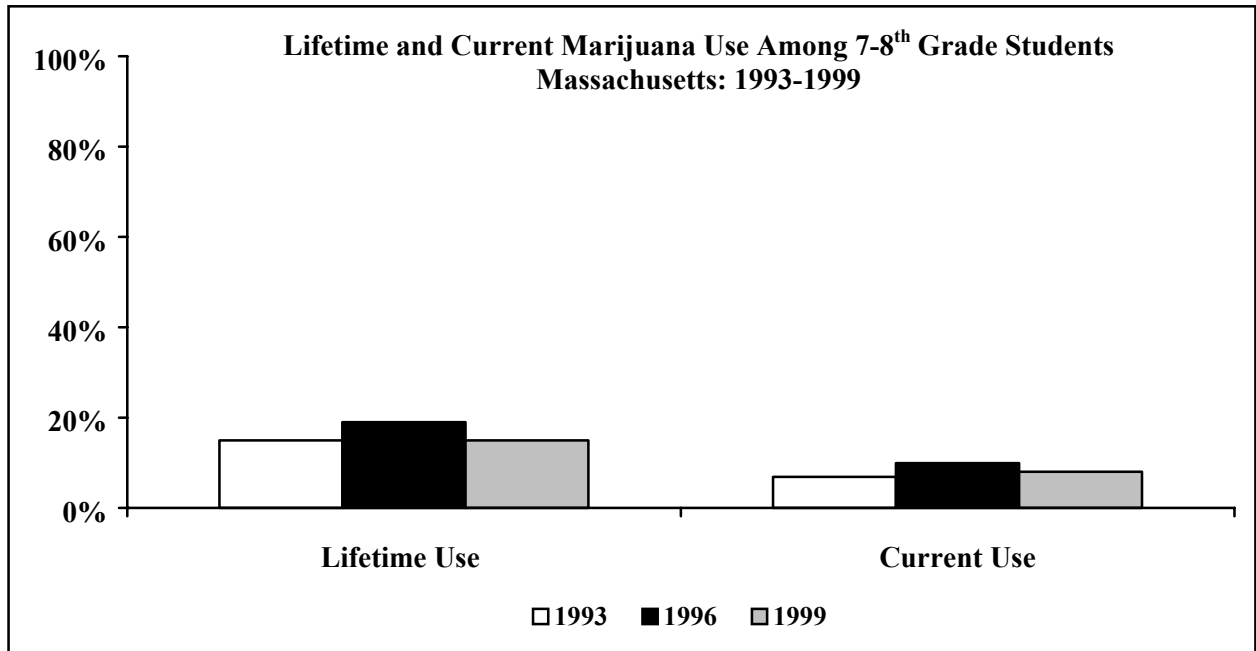
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due small proportions in current use

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime marijuana use decreased significantly by 49% from 1996 (6%) to 1999 (3%). In 1999, 97% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported never having used marijuana, not even once, within their lifetime.
- Also, in 1999, the proportion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting current marijuana use dropped by 65%. Less than 1% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using marijuana in the 30 days prior to the survey.
- Less than 9% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students judged marijuana as easy to obtain, a significant decline of 40% since 1996 (15%).
- Between 1996 and 1999, the proportion of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that there was great risk involved in occasionally smoking marijuana remained fairly constant at approximately 54%.

## ***MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE***

**Figure 22.**



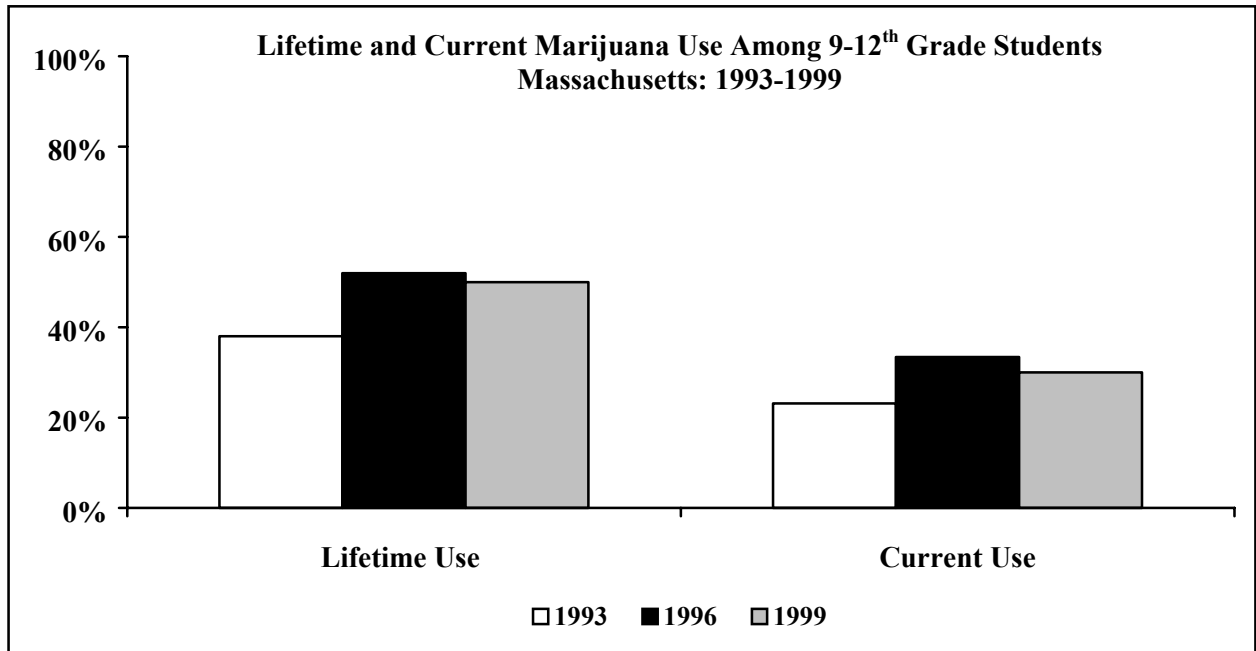
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### **Grades 7-8:**

- Among middle school students, lifetime marijuana use significantly declined by 24% from 1996 (19%) to 1999 (15%). In 1999, over 85% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported never having used marijuana.
- Current marijuana use remained fairly constant from 1996 to 1999 (10% and 8%, respectively).
- Fewer middle school students reported that marijuana was easy to get. The proportion of students reporting that marijuana was "very easy" or "fairly easy" to obtain dropped significantly from 1996 (42%) to 1999 (32%).
- There was a slight decline in the proportion of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that there was great risk involved in occasionally smoking marijuana from 1996 (47%) to 1999 (44%).

## ***MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE***

**Figure 23.**



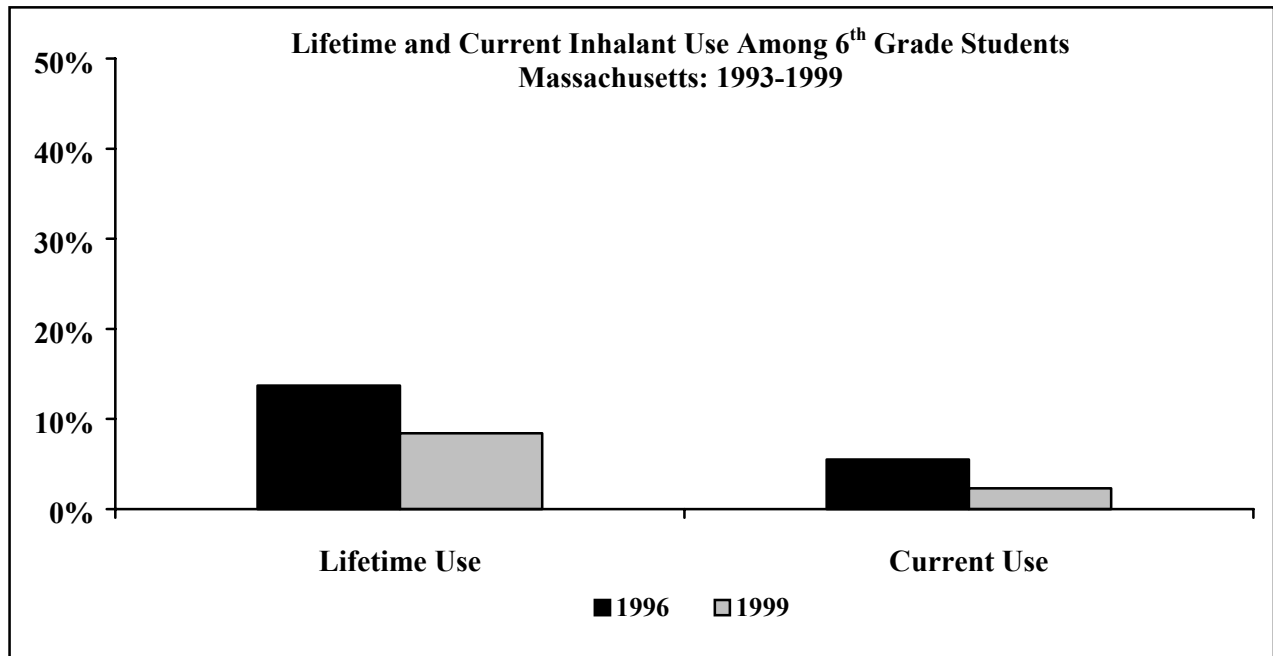
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### **Grades 9-12:**

- Among 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime marijuana use remained fairly consistent from 1996 (52%) to 1999 (50%). Indicating that approximately half of all surveyed high school students reported never having used marijuana.
- Also, reported current marijuana use fell slightly from 1996 (33%) to 1999 (30%).
- Marijuana was judged as harder to get in 1999. Approximately 79% of high school students reporting that marijuana was easy to obtain, a significant decline since 1996 (85%).
- The proportion of high school students reporting that people greatly risked harming themselves by occasionally smoking marijuana remained fairly consistent between 1996 (20%) and 1999 (18%).

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE

Figure 24.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

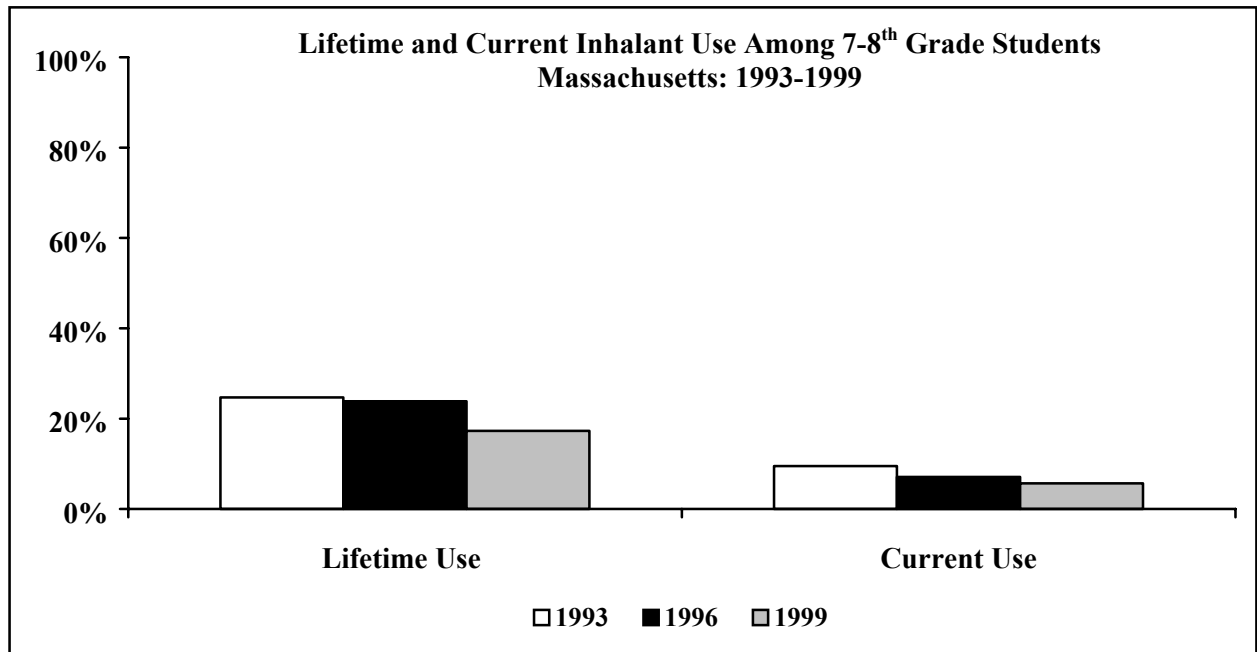
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions in current use*

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, lifetime inhalant use dropped significantly from 1996 (14%) to 1999 (8%).
- Also, in 1999, 2% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported current inhalant use, a significant decline of 58% from 1996 (6%). Inhalants remained the most widely used drug as reported by students in this grade.
- There was a significant increase in the proportion of students reporting that there is great risk in occasionally using inhalants from 1996 (45%) to 1999 (53%).

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE

Figure 25.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

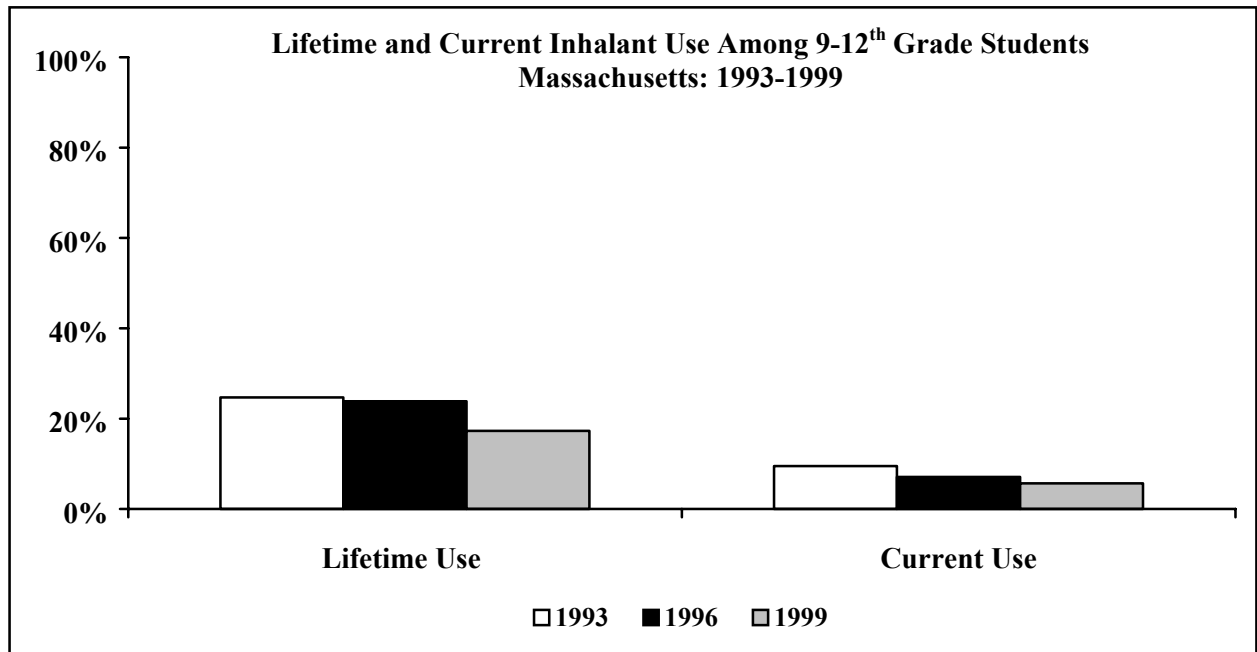
### Grades 7-8:

- Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, a significant decline was observed from 1996 (24%) to 1999 (17%) in the lifetime use of inhalants.
- On the other hand, current inhalant use remained fairly constant over the past three years (7% and 6%, respectively). In 1999, current inhalant use was at the lowest reported level since 1990 (3%).
- In 1999, approximately 46% of middle school students reported that people greatly risk harming themselves by occasionally using inhalants, consistent with 1996.



## INHALANT USE BY GRADE

Figure 26.



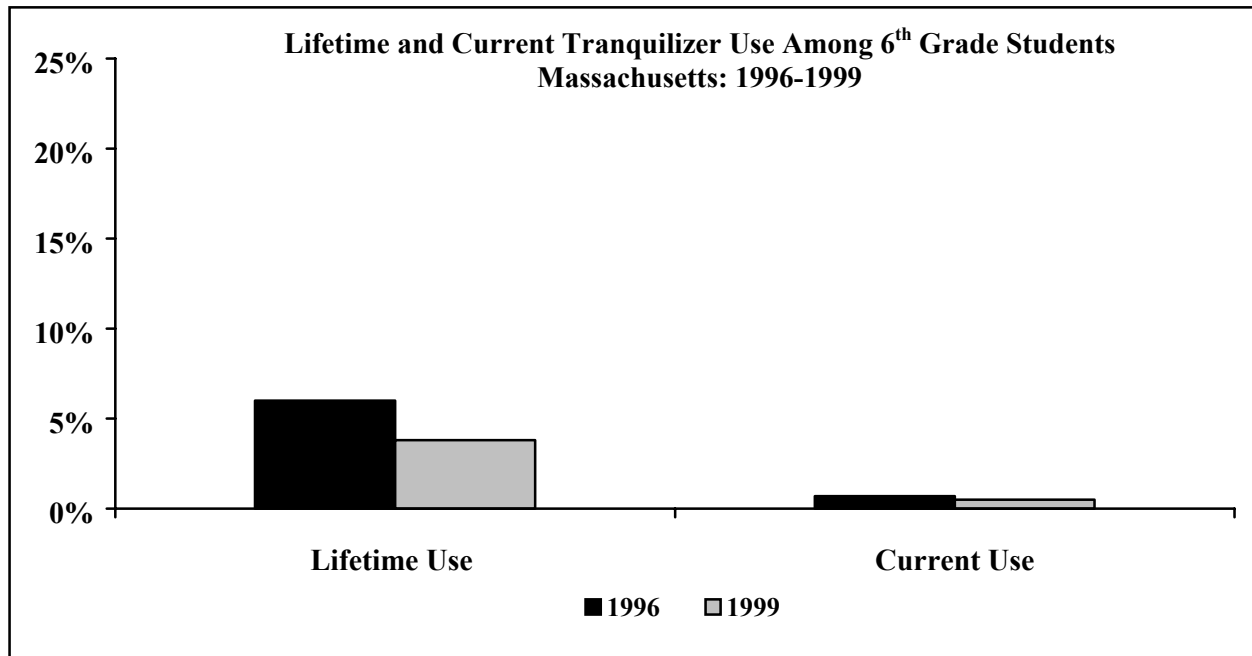
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- Among high school students, there was a significant decrease of 23% in lifetime use of inhalants from 1996 (20%) to 1999 (16%). Reported lifetime use among 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders was the lowest ever recorded by this survey.
- In 1999, 4% of high school students reported using inhalants within the past month, remaining fairly consistent with 1996 (5%).
- Over half of surveyed high school students reported that there is great risk in using inhalants occasionally, consistent with 1996.

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE

Figure 27.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

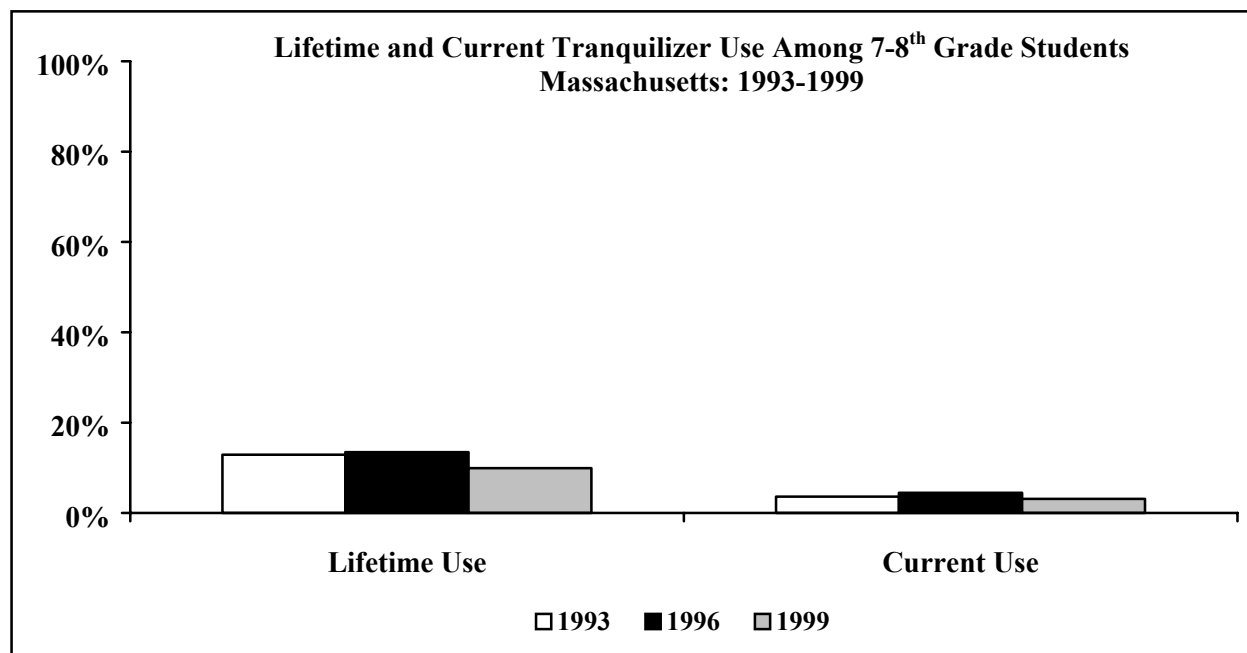
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.*

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, tranquilizers were the second most widely used drug, although reported prevalence was relatively low with lifetime use at 4% and current use at less than 1%.
- There were no significant declines in tranquilizer use from 1996 to 1999, however both lifetime and current use did trend downward. In 1999, over 96% of students reported never having used tranquilizers in their lifetime.
- The proportion of students reporting that tranquilizers were easy to obtain dropped slightly from 1996 (17%) to 1999 (14%).

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE

Figure 28.



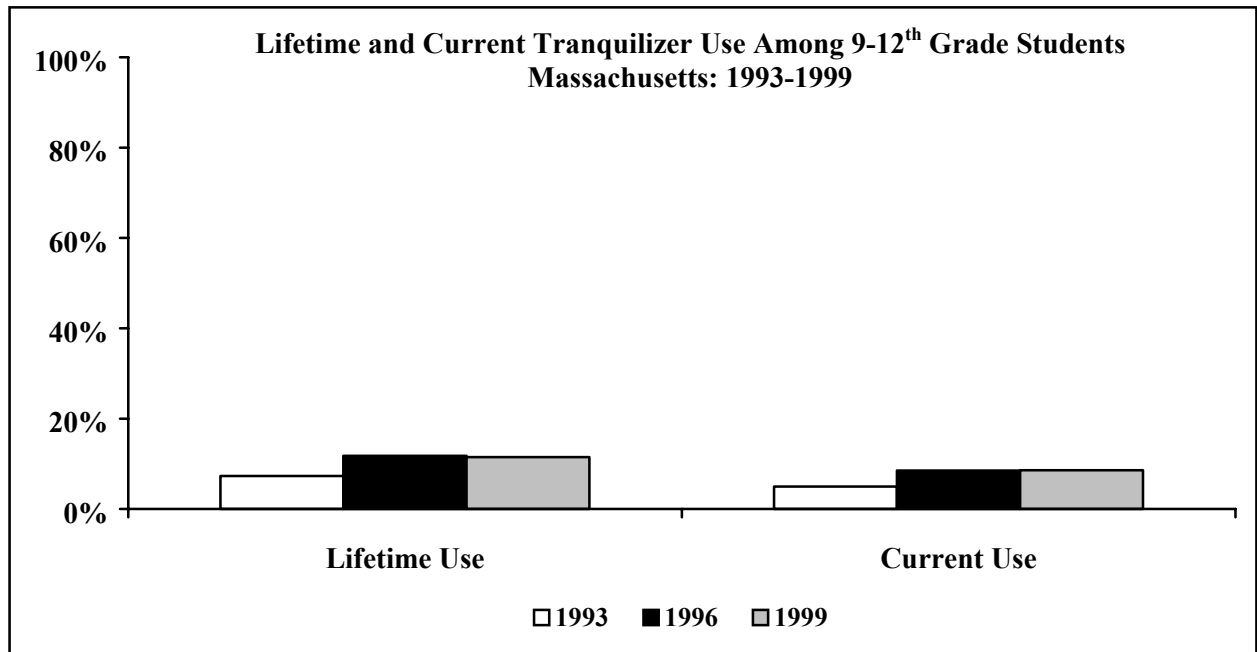
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, a significant decline of 27% was observed in the lifetime use of tranquilizers from 1996 (14%) to 1999 (10%).
- Furthermore, in 1999, 3% of middle school students reported using tranquilizers within the past month, dropping slightly from 1996 (5%).
- Non-prescribed tranquilizers were judged as much more difficult to get in 1999 by 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders. There was a significant decline of 18% in the proportion of students reporting that tranquilizers were "very easy" or "fairly easy" to obtain from 1996 (34%) to 1999 (28%).

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE

Figure 29.



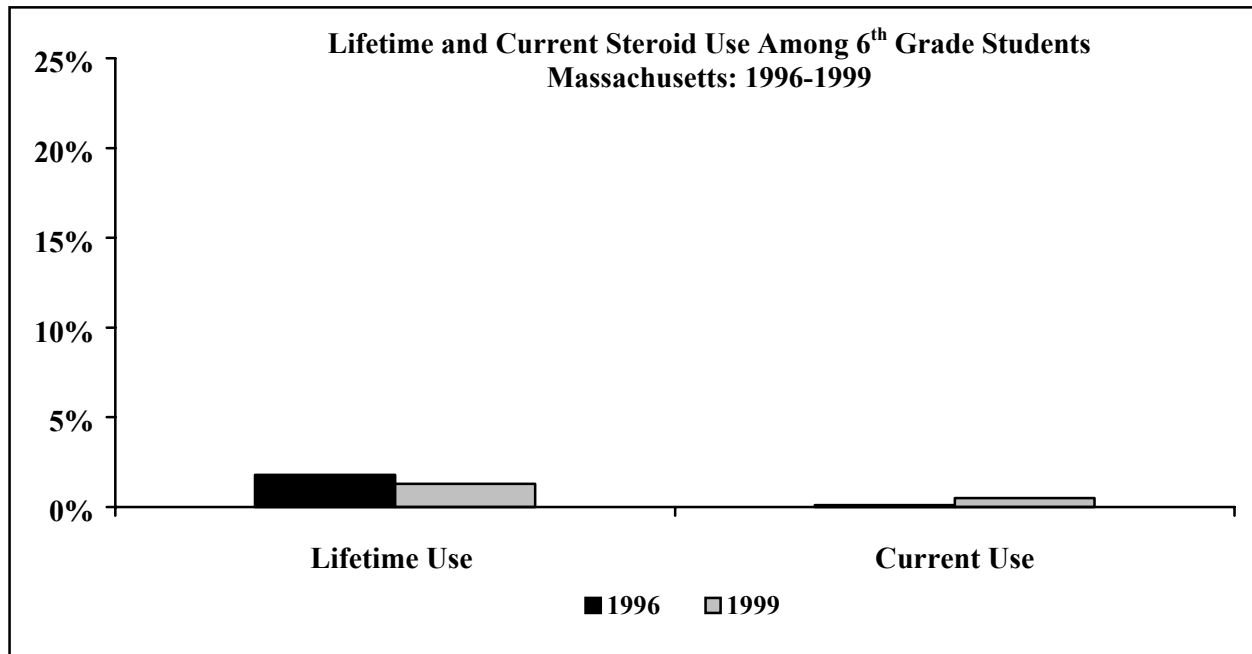
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- Among high school students, lifetime use of tranquilizers fell significantly by 19% from 1996 (24%) to 1999 (20%), while current use stayed level at approximately 9%.
- Between 1996 and 1999, the proportion of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting that tranquilizers were easy to obtain remained level at approximately 55%.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE

Figure 30.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

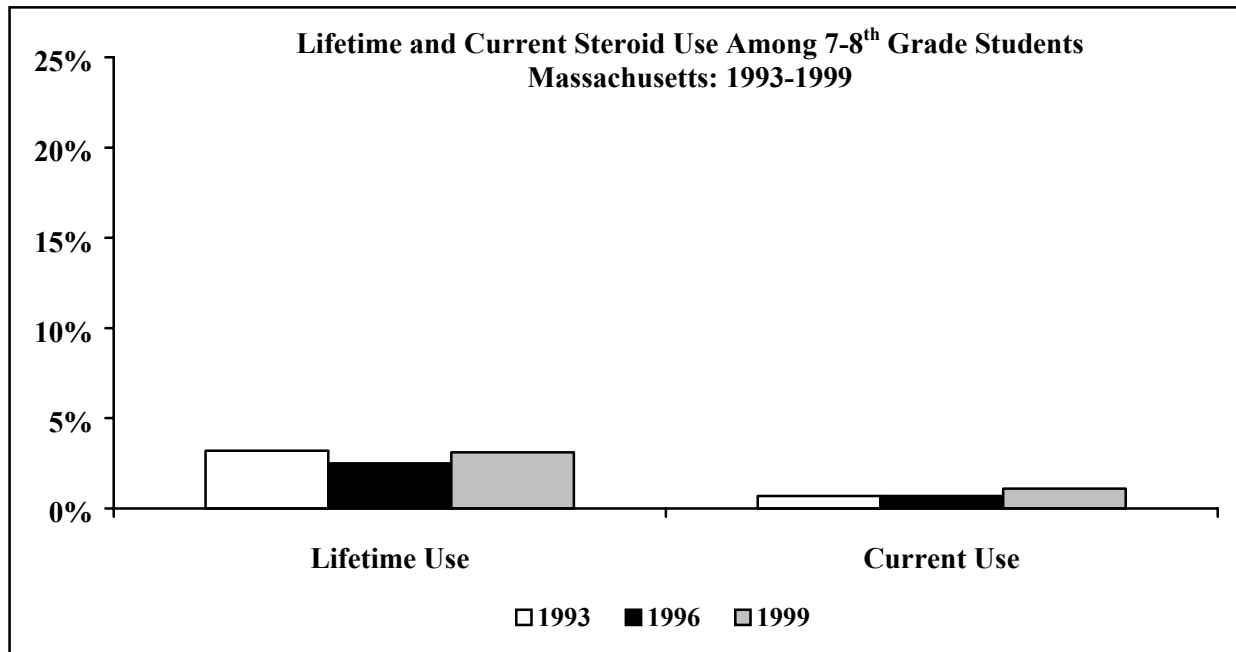
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.*

### Grade 6:

- Lifetime steroid use was reported by 1.8% of 6<sup>th</sup> grader in 1996 as compared to 1.3% in 1999.
- The trend for nearly all substances as reported by students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade was down with the exception of current steroid use, which rose significantly from near zero to half of a percent over the past three years.
- In 1999, 9% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reported that steroids were easy to obtain, similar to that reported in 1996.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE

Figure 31.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

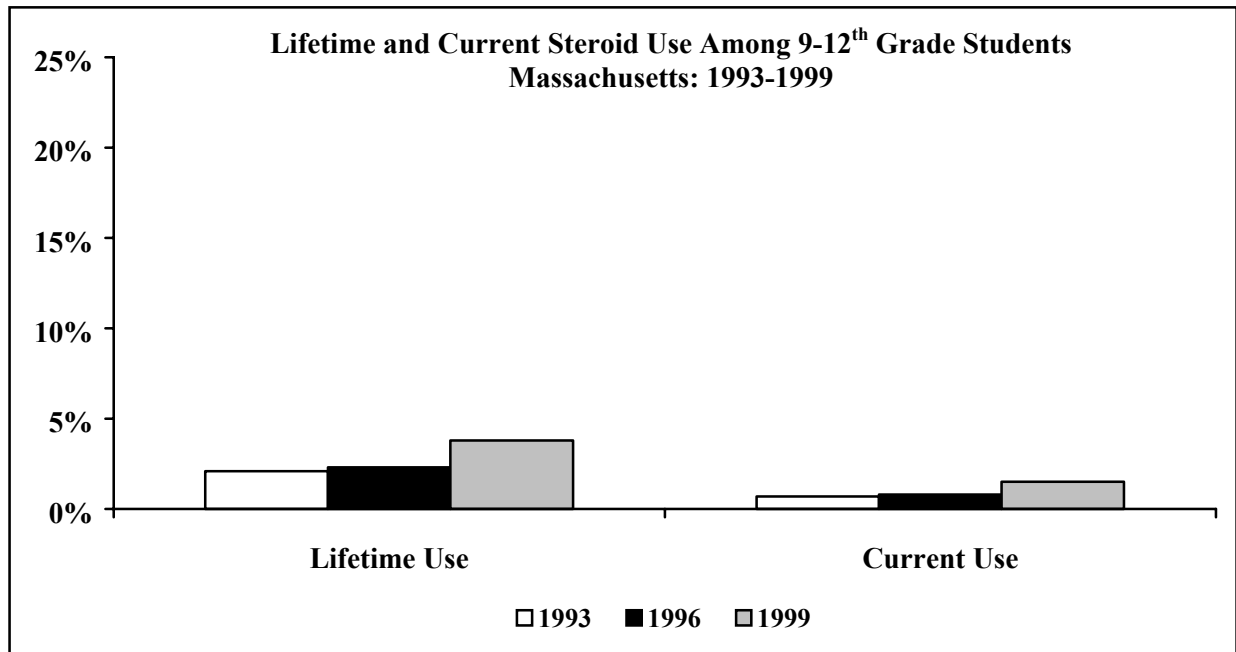
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.

### Grades 7-8:

- From 1996 to 1999, lifetime and current steroid use remained fairly constant. In 1999, middle school students reported a lifetime steroid use of 3% and a current steroid use of 1%. Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders, 97% reported never having used steroids.
- In 1999, steroids were judged as much more difficult to get by middle school students. There was a significant decline of 28% in the proportion of students reporting that steroids were "very easy" or "fairly easy" to obtain from 1996 (24%) to 1999 (17%).

## STEROID USE BY GRADE

Figure 32.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

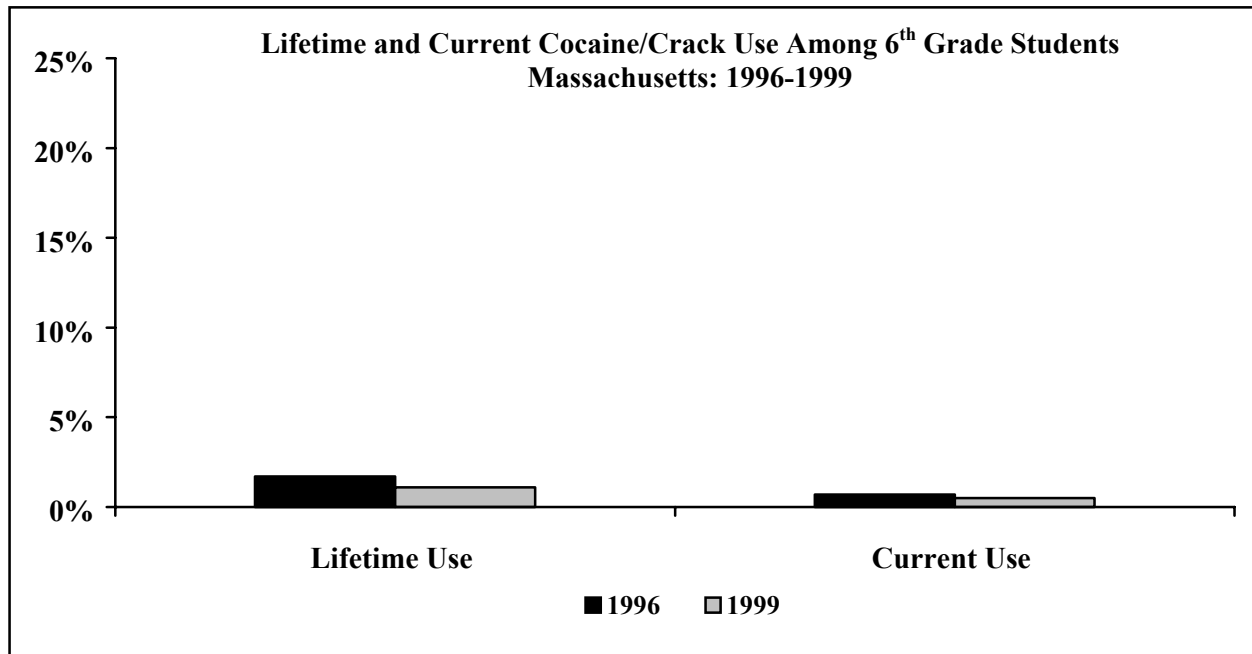
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.*

### Grades 9-12:

- There were significant increases in both lifetime and current use of steroids reported by high school students. Lifetime steroid use doubled from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (4%), as did current steroid use which was reported as 1% in 1996 and 2% in 1999.
- In 1999, 44% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that it was easy to obtain steroids, up slightly from 42% (1996).

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE

Figure 33.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.

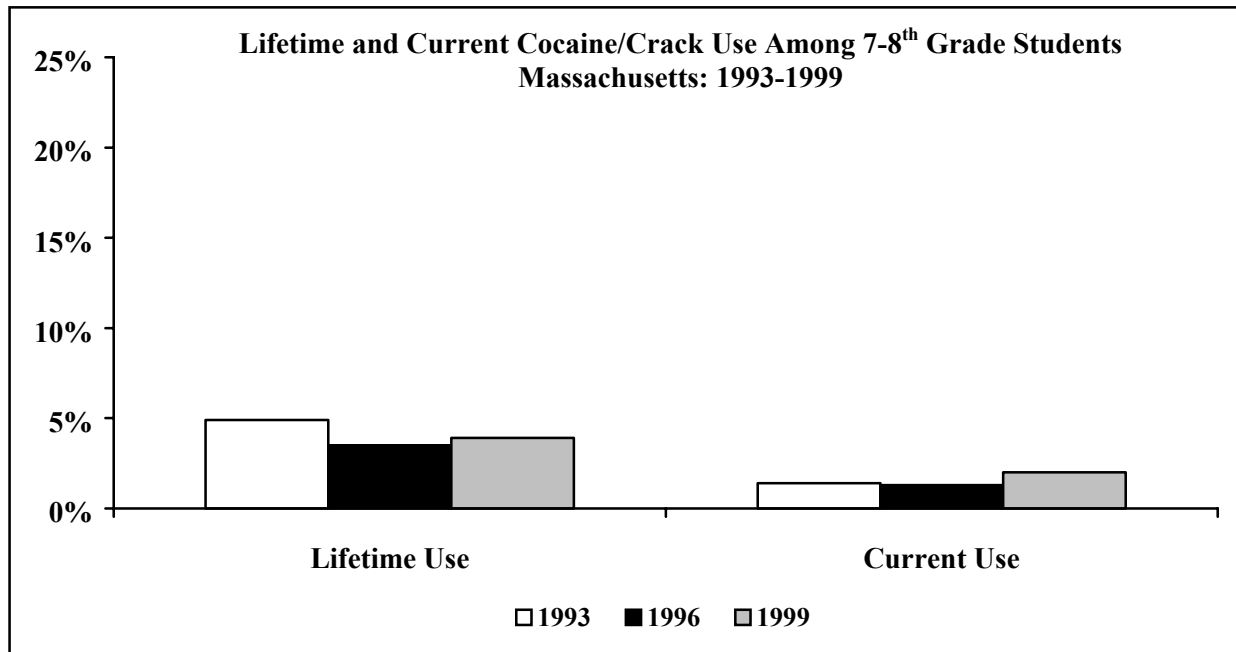
### Grade 6:

- Both lifetime and current cocaine/crack use held fairly steady from 1996 to 1999. In 1999, 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a lifetime cocaine/crack use of 1% and a current cocaine/crack use of 0.5%. In 1999, approximately 99% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reported never having used cocaine/crack in their lifetime.
- Over the past three years, the proportion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting that it was easy to obtain cocaine significantly declined from 1996 (10%) to 1999 (5%).
- Between 1996 and 1999, the proportion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting that there is great harm in occasionally using cocaine/crack held steady at 61%.



## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE

Figure 34.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

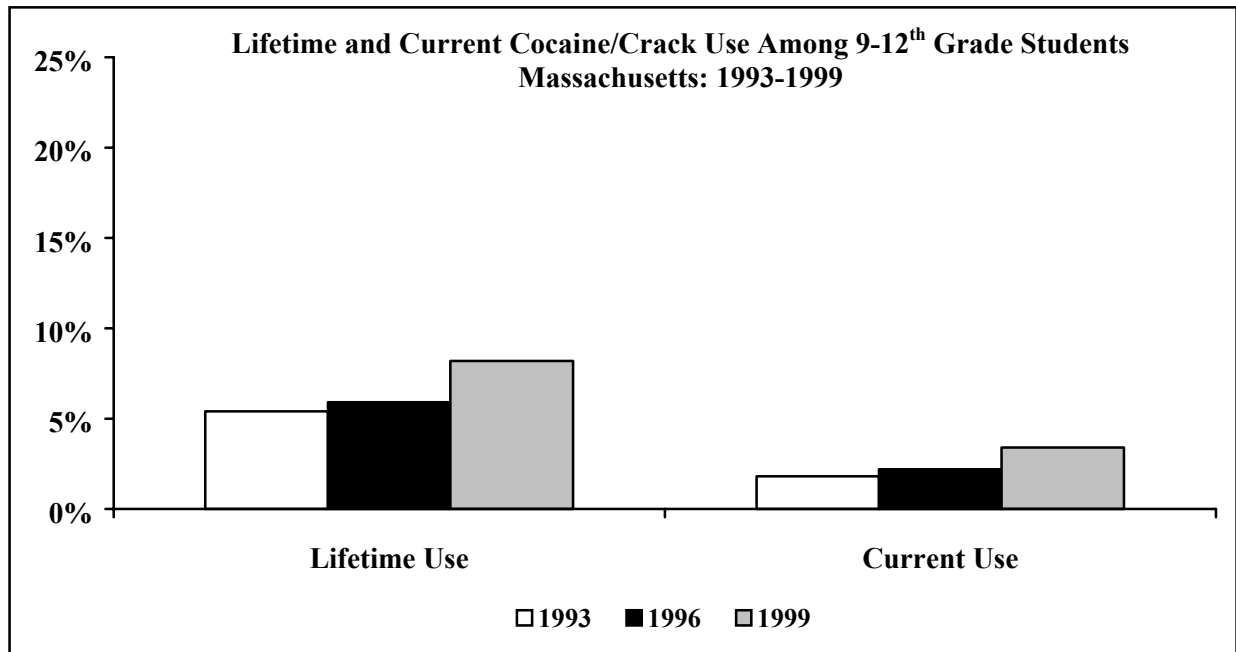
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.*

### Grades 7-8:

- From 1996 to 1999, the lifetime and current use of cocaine/crack remained fairly consistent. In 1999, 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported a lifetime cocaine/crack of 4% and a current use of 2%. Over 96% of students reported never having tried cocaine/crack.
- The proportion of students reporting that it was easy to obtain cocaine significantly declined from 1996 (18%) to 1999 (12%).
- Fewer middle school students reported that there was great harm in occasionally using cocaine/crack, declining significantly from 65% (1996) to 60% (1999).

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE

Figure 35.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

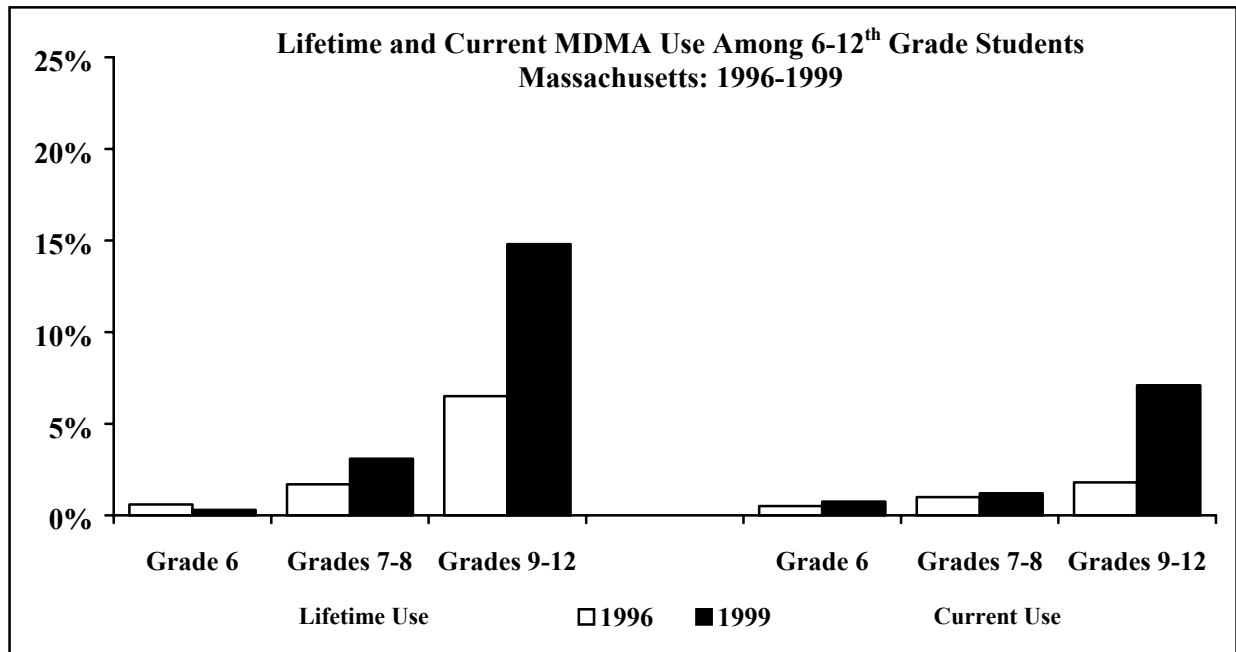
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions in current use.*

### Grades 9-12:

- There were significant increases in both lifetime and current cocaine/crack use from 1996 to 1999. Lifetime use rose from 6% to 8%, and current cocaine/crack use also increased 2% to 3%.
- The proportion of students reporting that it was easy to obtain cocaine significantly declined from 1996 (36%) to 1999 (29%).
- Fewer high school students reported that there was great harm in occasionally using cocaine/crack, declining significantly from 72% in 1996 to 64% in 1999.

## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE

Figure 36.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- Among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, the use of MDMA has remained fairly constant from 1996 to 1999, with a lifetime use rate of 0.3% and a current use rate of 0.2%.
- Fewer 6<sup>th</sup> grade students found it easy to obtain MDMA in 1999 (4%) than in 1996 (6%).

### Grades 7-8:

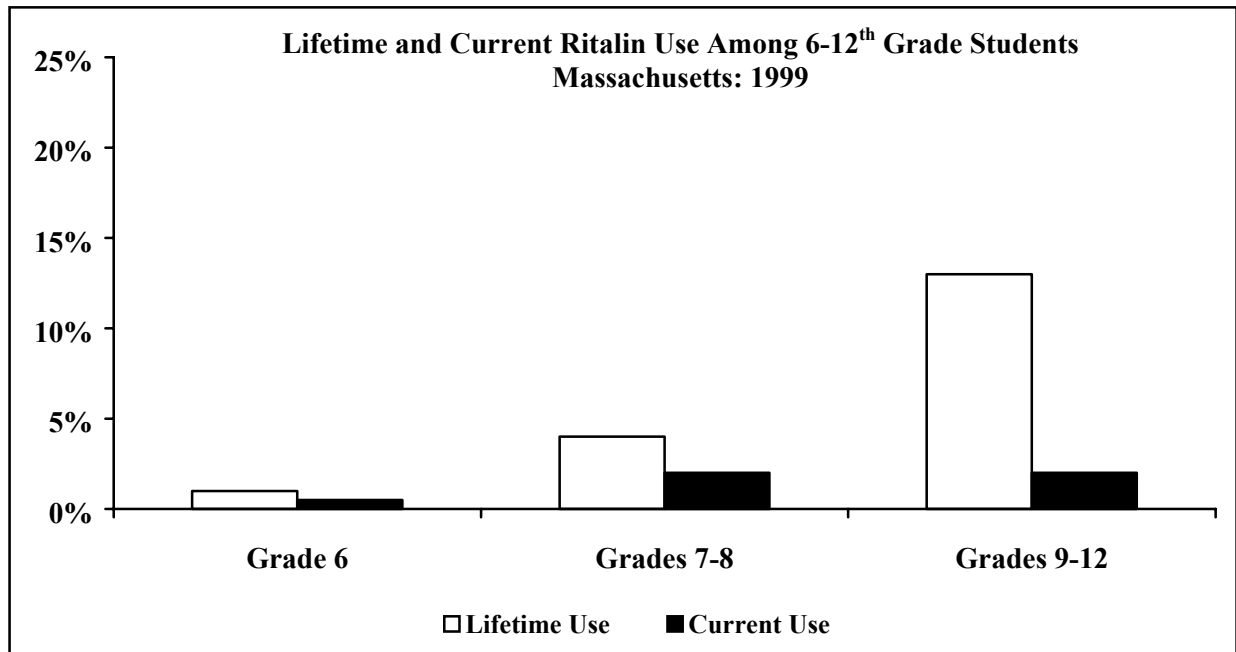
- Among middle school students, lifetime prevalence of MDMA rose slightly from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (3%). Also, over the past three years, current prevalence of MDMA remained constant at approximately 1%.
- The proportion of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that it was easy to obtain MDMA trended downward from 1996 (13%) to 1999 (10%).

### Grades 9-12:

- Among high school students, lifetime MDMA use significantly increased from 1996 (7%) to 1999 (15%), as did current use (2% to 7%, respectively).
- MDMA was judged as the second easiest drug to obtain, with over half of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting that MDMA was "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get. This was a significant increase from 1996, when 34% said MDMA was easily acquired.

## RITALIN USE BY GRADE

Figure 37.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

- In 1999, 1% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported the unauthorized use of Ritalin at least once in their lifetime. No students in grade 6<sup>th</sup> reported currently using nonprescription Ritalin.
- In 1999, less than 7% of students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported that it was easy to obtain Ritalin.

### Grades 7-8:

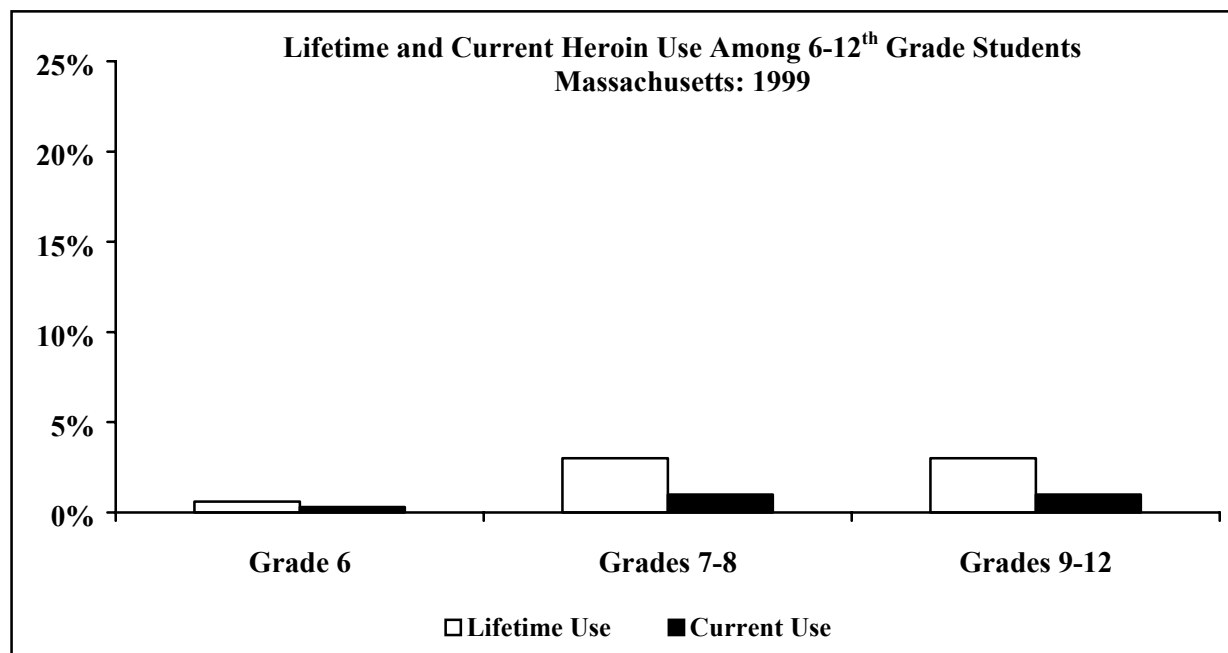
- Students in grades 7-8<sup>th</sup> reported a 4% lifetime unauthorized use of Ritalin and a 2% current use rate.
- In 1999, 21% of middle school students reported that it was easy to obtain Ritalin.

### Grades 9-12:

- In 1999, the lifetime prevalence rate for nonprescription Ritalin use was 13% and the reported current use was 4% among high school students.
- In 1999, 46% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported that Ritalin was easily obtained.

## HEROIN USE BY GRADE

Figure 38.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

- In 1999, less than 1% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using heroin, specifically they reported a 0.6% lifetime prevalence rate and 0.3% current prevalence rate.
- Over 62% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in 1999 reported that people greatly risk harming themselves by occasionally using heroin.

### Grades 7-8:

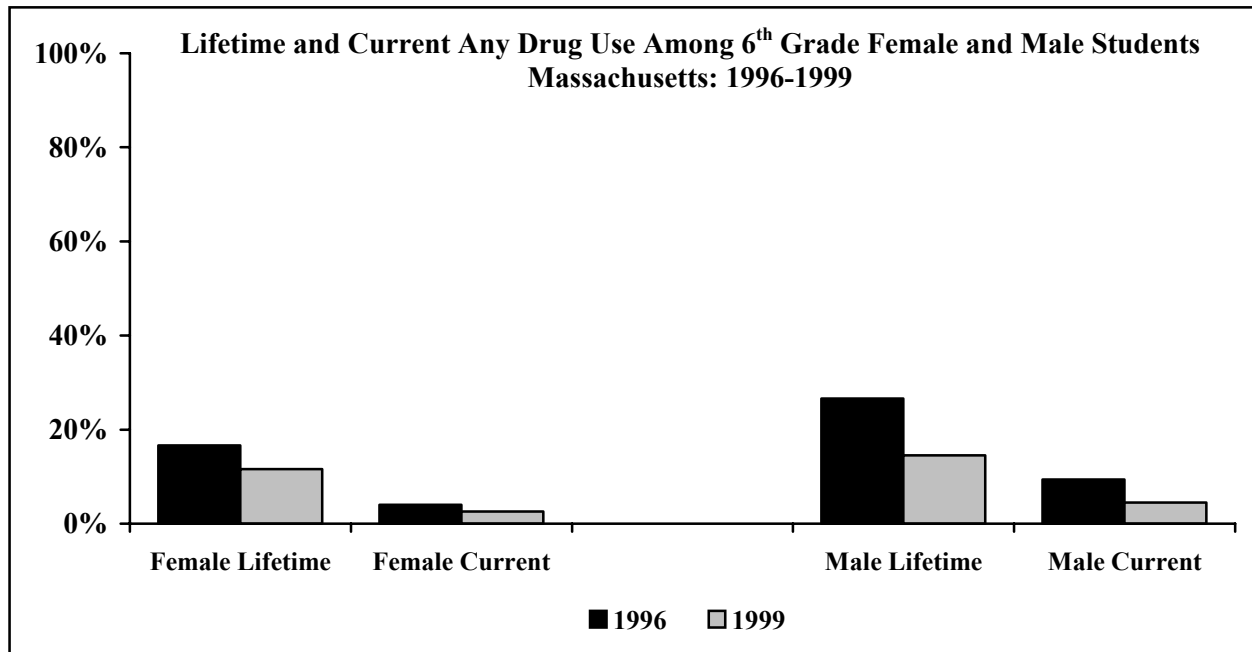
- In 1999, 3% of middle school students reported using heroin at least once in their lifetime and slightly over 1% reported using heroin within the 30 days prior to completing the survey.
- Approximately 64% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders indicated that people greatly risk harming themselves occasionally using heroin.

### Grades 9-12:

- In 1999, 3% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using heroin in their lifetime and slightly over 1% reported current use.
- Almost 75% of high school students indicated that people greatly risk harming themselves by occasionally using heroin.

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 39.



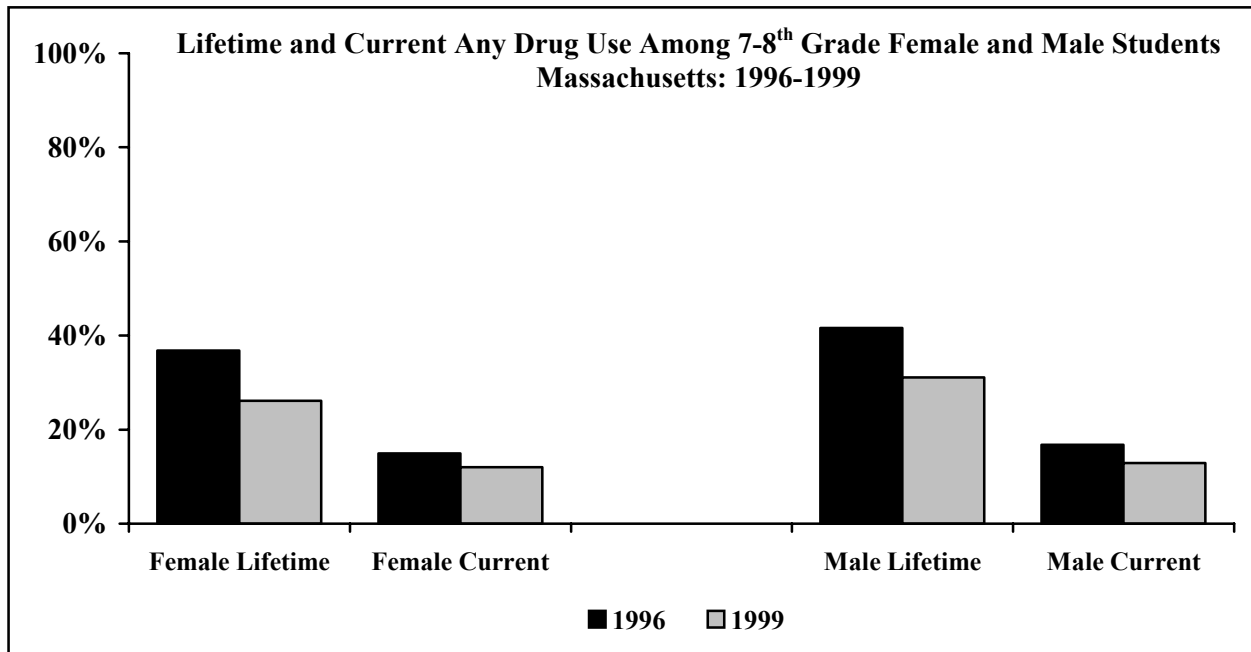
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – Both lifetime and current use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) dropped slightly over the past three years. Female 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a lifetime any drug use of 12%, down from that reported in 1996 (17%). Current use of any drug declined from a reported 4% in 1996 to 3% in 1999.
- **Male Students** – Among 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys, lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) declined significantly by 45% from 1996 (27%) to 1999 (15%). Current use also trended downward from 1996 (10%) to 1999 (5%).

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 40.



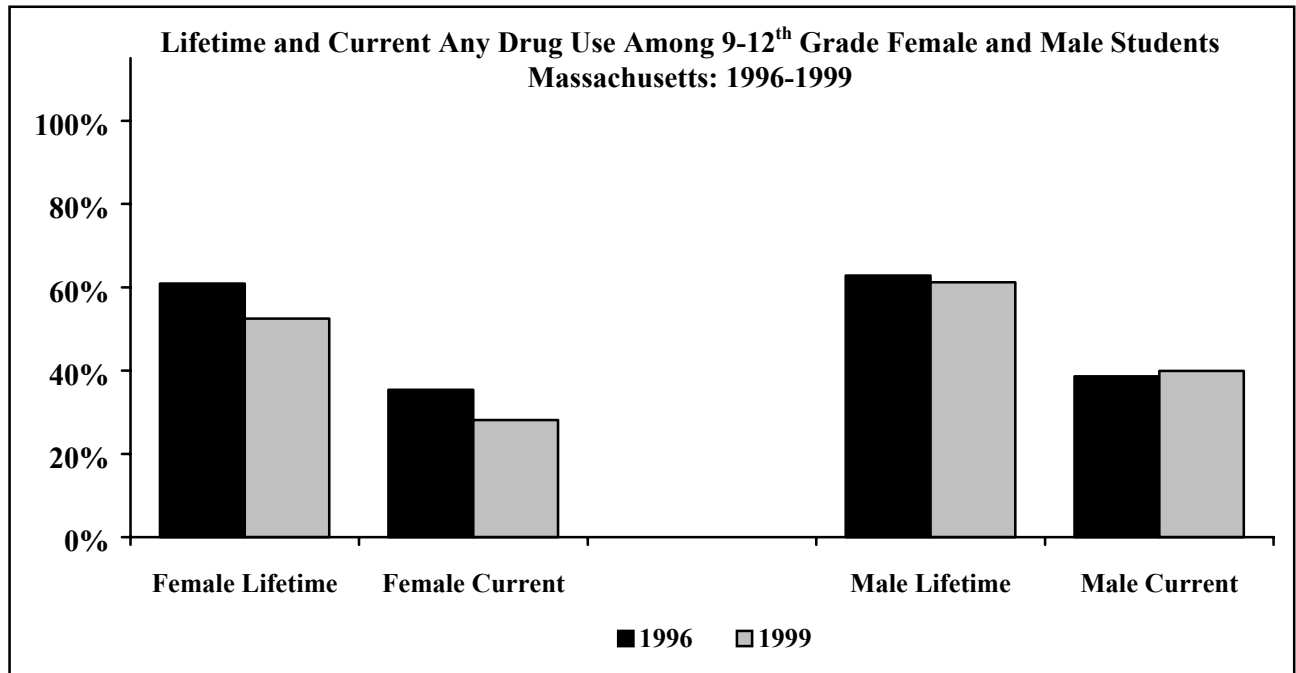
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – In 1999, 26% of middle school females reported using any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) in their lifetime, a significant decline of 29% from 1996 (37%). Current any drug use dropped from 15% to 12% over the past three years.
- **Male Students** – In grades 7-8<sup>th</sup>, boys reported a significant decline of 25% in the lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) from 1996 (42%) to 1999 (31%). In 1999, current use of any drug also decreased to 13%, down from almost 17% in 1996.

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 41.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

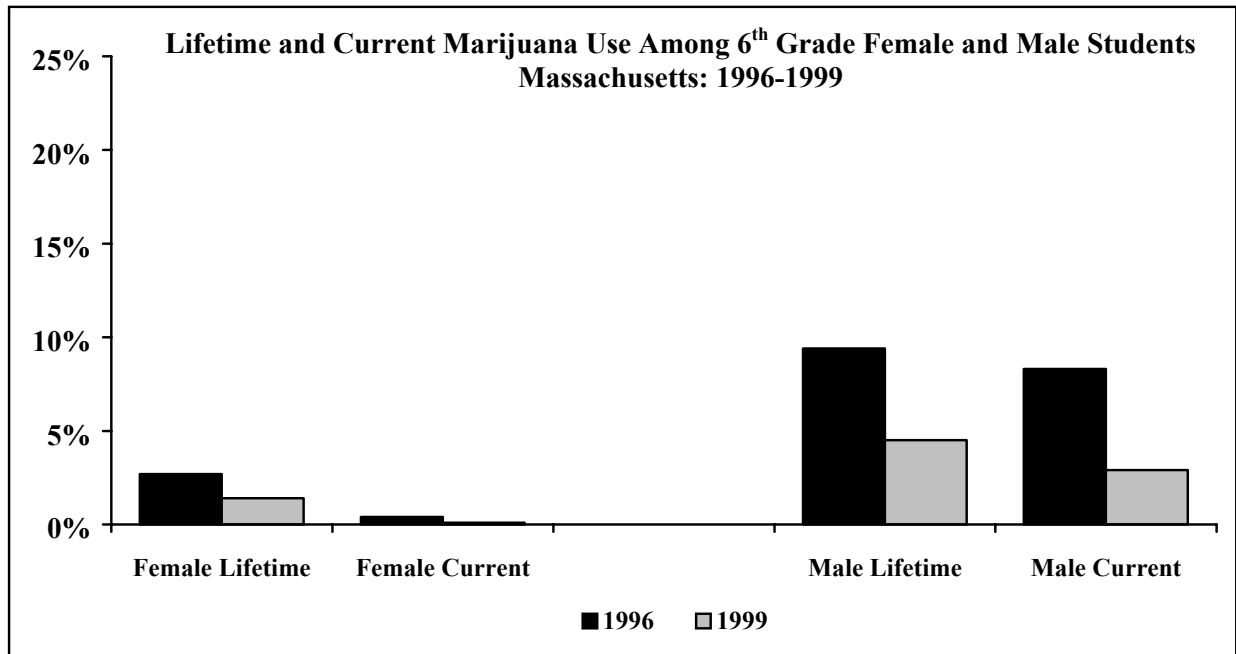
### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – High school girls indicated a significant decline in both lifetime and current any drug use (other than alcohol and tobacco). Reported lifetime any drug use decreased by 14% from 1996 (61%) to 1999 (53%), current use dropped 21% from 1996 (35%) to 1999 (28%).
- **Male Students** – From 1996 to 1999, male 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported fairly consistent lifetime and current any drug use (other than alcohol and tobacco). In 1999, lifetime any drug use was reported as 61% and current any drug use was reported as 40%.



## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 42.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

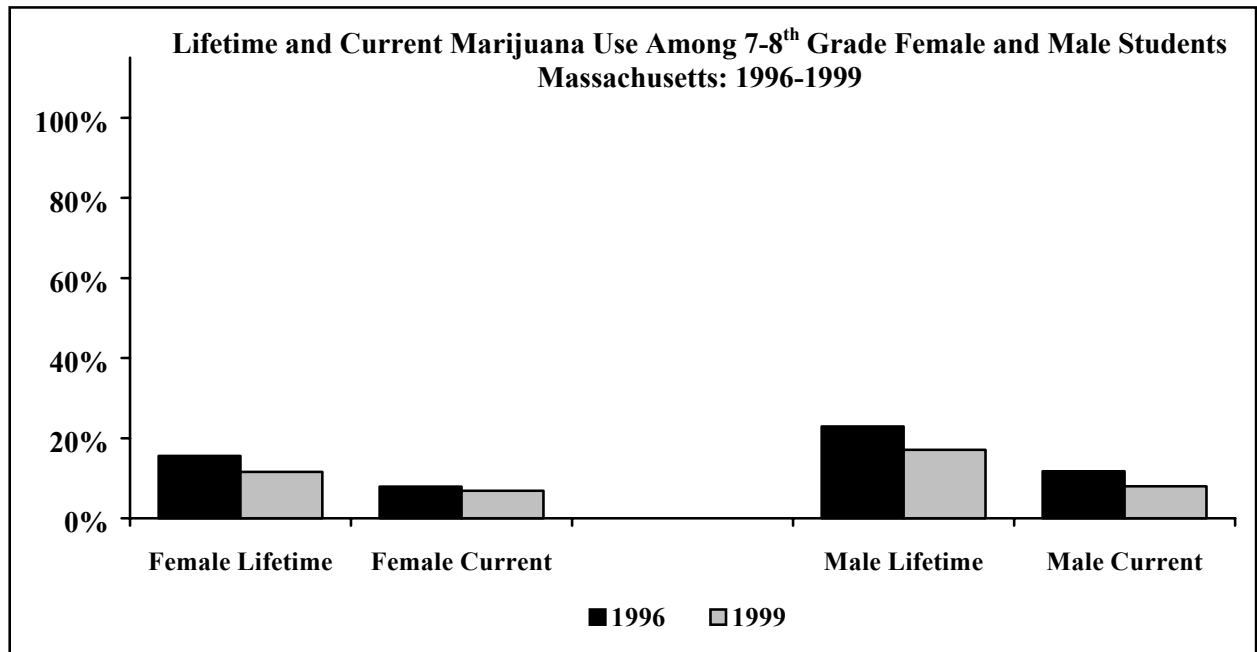
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – Lifetime marijuana use among 6<sup>th</sup> grade females dropped from 3% in 1996 to slightly over 1% in 1999. Current use remained constant at 0.1%.
- **Male Students** – Sixth grade males reported a significant decline of 45% in lifetime marijuana use, dropping from 27% (1996) to 15% (1999). Current marijuana use also fell from 3% to 1% over the past three years.

## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 43.



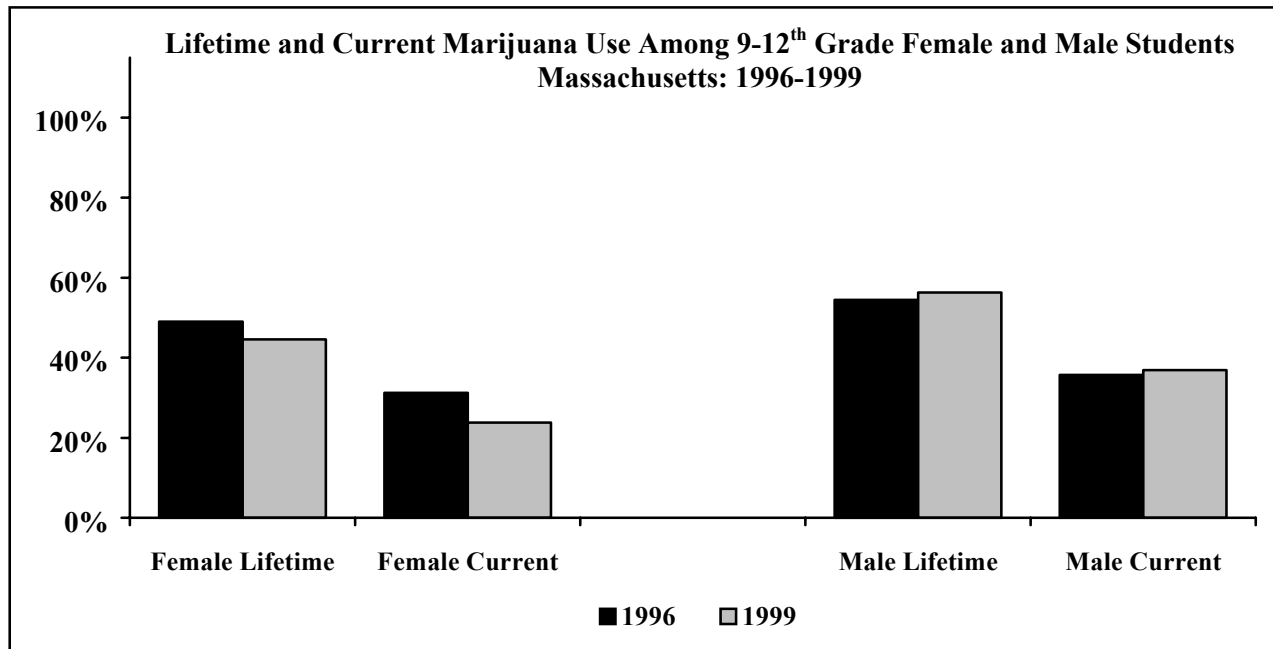
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Female students in middle school reported a lifetime marijuana use of 12% and a current marijuana use of 7% in 1999. Both lifetime (16%) and current (8%) marijuana use were slightly lower than prevalence rates reported in 1996.
- **Male Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, lifetime marijuana use declined significantly by 25% from 1996 (23%) to 1999 (17%). Current marijuana use was reported as 8%, down slightly from 12% in 1996.

## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 44.



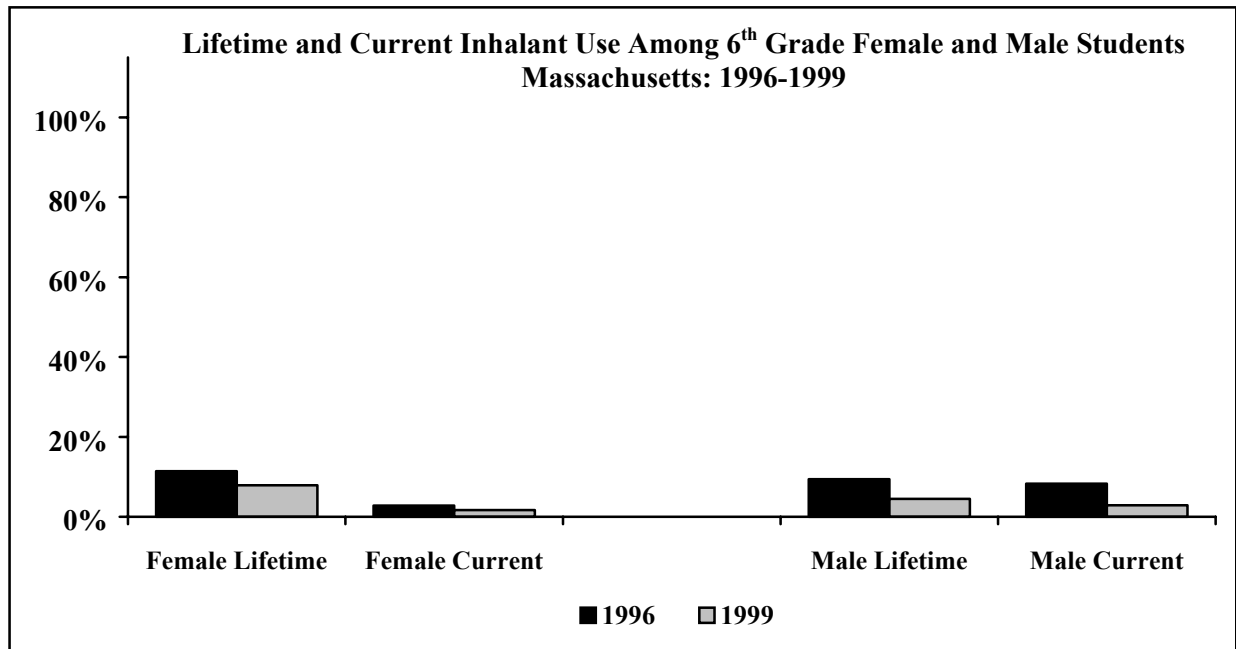
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Girls in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported a lifetime marijuana use of 45% trending downward from 49% (1996). In 1999, 24% of female high school students reported current marijuana use, a significant decline of 24% from that reported in 1996 (31%).
- **Male Students** – Male high school students reported fairly consistent lifetime and current marijuana prevalence rates. In 1999, 56% reported lifetime marijuana use and 37% reported using marijuana within the 30 days prior to completing the survey.

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 45.



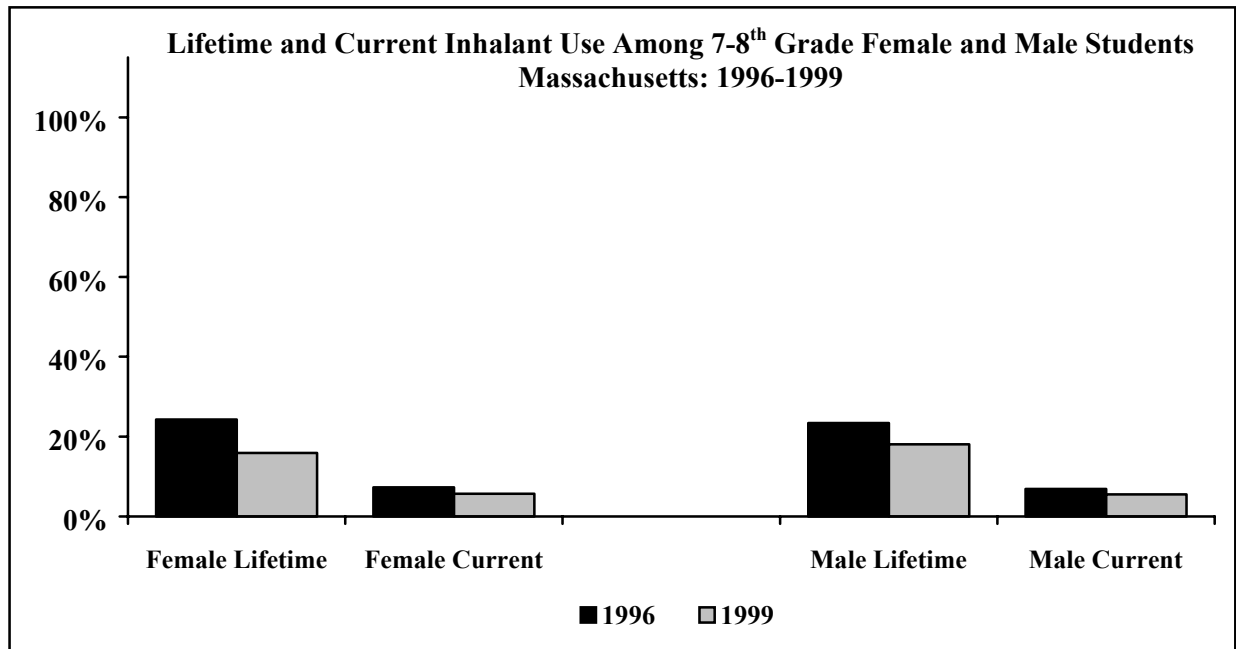
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – Grade 6<sup>th</sup> girls reported 8% lifetime inhalant use in 1999, a slight drop from the 11% reported in 1996. Current inhalant use trended downward from 3% to 2% over the past three years.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, male 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a 9% lifetime inhalant use rate, down from the 16% rate reported in 1996. Current inhalant use in this group declined significantly by 65% from 1996 (8%) to 1999 (3%).

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 46.



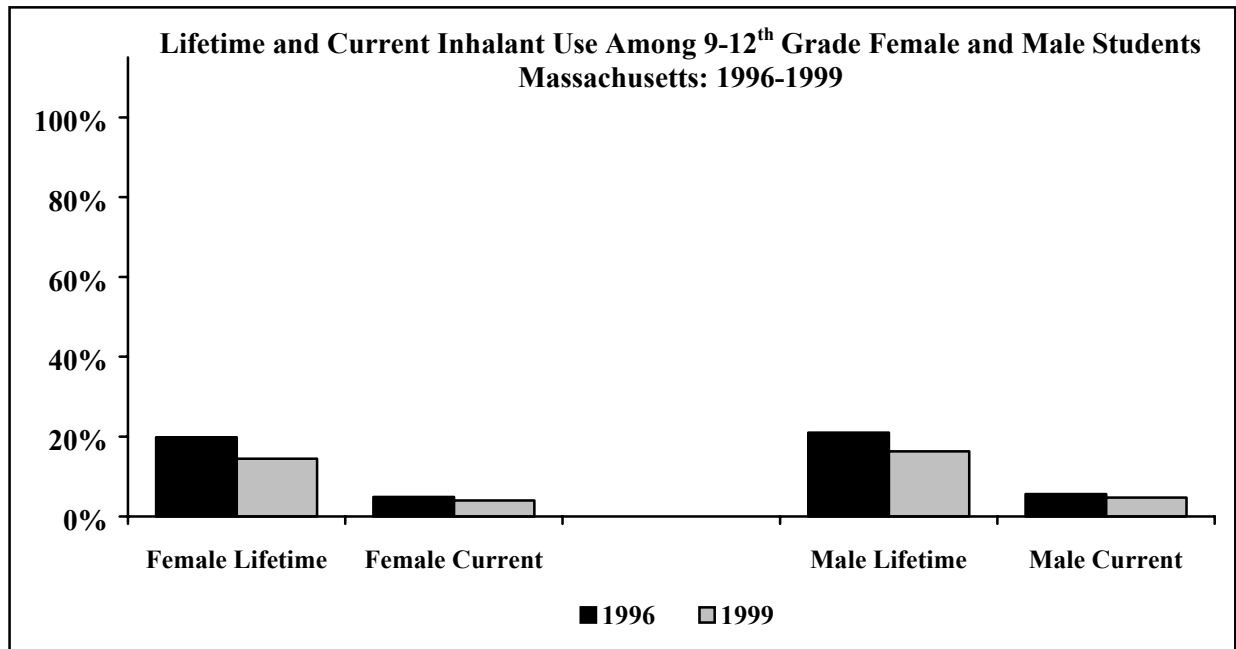
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** -- From 1996 (24%) to 1999 (16%), there was a significant decline of 35% in the reported lifetime inhalant use among middle school females. Current use declined slightly from 7% to 6%.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 18% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys reported lifetime inhalant use, declining from 23% (1996). Current use was reported by 6% of students, as compared to 7% in 1996.

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 47.



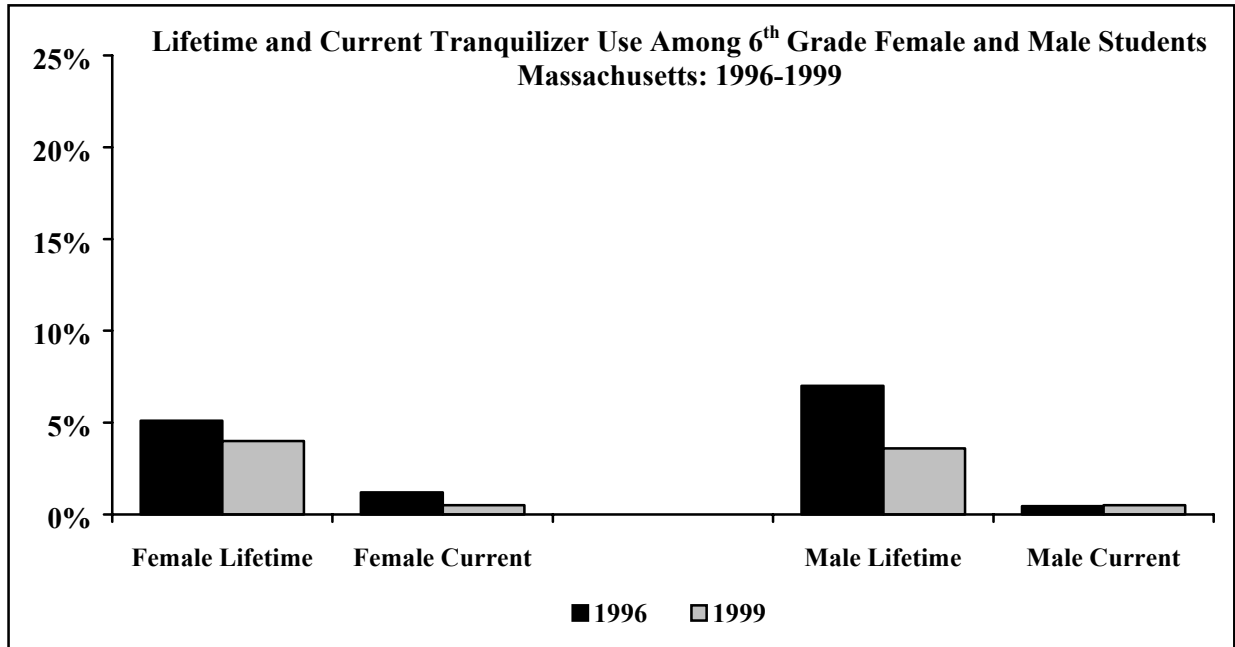
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – High school girls reported a 15% lifetime inhalant use rate, a significant decline of 27% from 1996 (20%). In 1999, 4% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade females reported current inhalant use, as compared with 5% in 1996.
- **Male Students** – Reported lifetime inhalant use decreased significantly by 22% from 1996 (21%) to 1999 (16%). In 1999, current inhalant was reported among high school boys at 5%, down slightly from 1996 (6%).

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 48.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

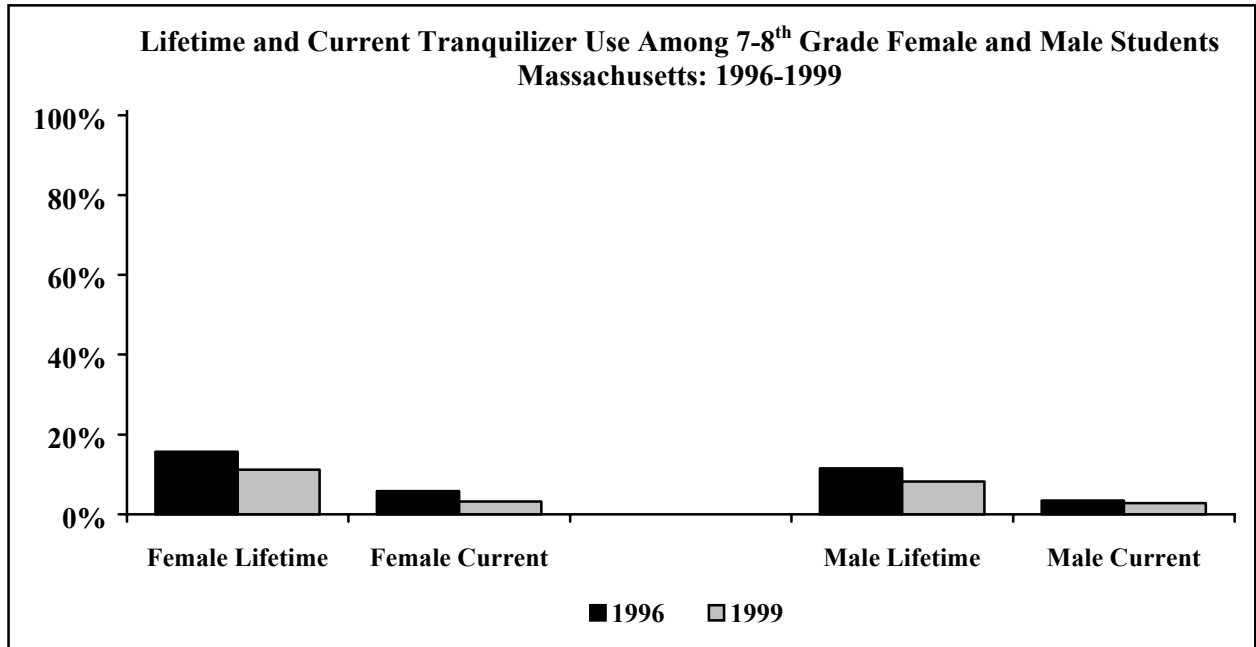
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – In 1999, female 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a 4% lifetime tranquilizer use rate as compared to 5% in 1996. Less than 1% reported using tranquilizers in the 30 days prior to completing the survey.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 4% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys reported using tranquilizers in their lifetime, dropping slightly from 1996 (7%). Although reported current tranquilizer prevalence levels remain low, there was a significant increase in use from 1996 (0.1%) to 1999 (0.5%).

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 49.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

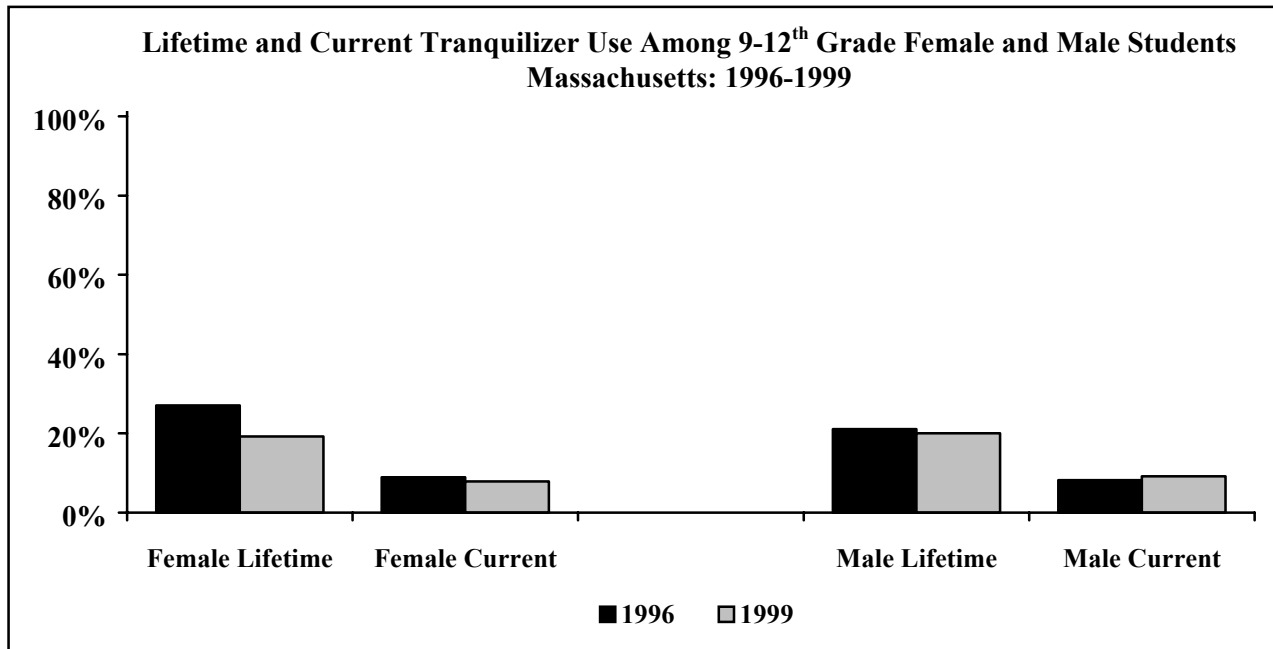
### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Female 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported a significant decline of 29% in the use of tranquilizers from 1996 (16%) to 1999 (11%). Current tranquilizer use was reported by 3% of middle school girls, a significant decline from 1996 (6%).
- **Male Students** – Although both lifetime and current tranquilizer use reported by 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys trended downward from 1996 to 1999, these declines did not reach significance. In 1999, 8% of middle school boys reported using tranquilizers at least once in their lifetime as compared to 12% in 1996. Current use remained fairly consistent at 3%.



## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 50.



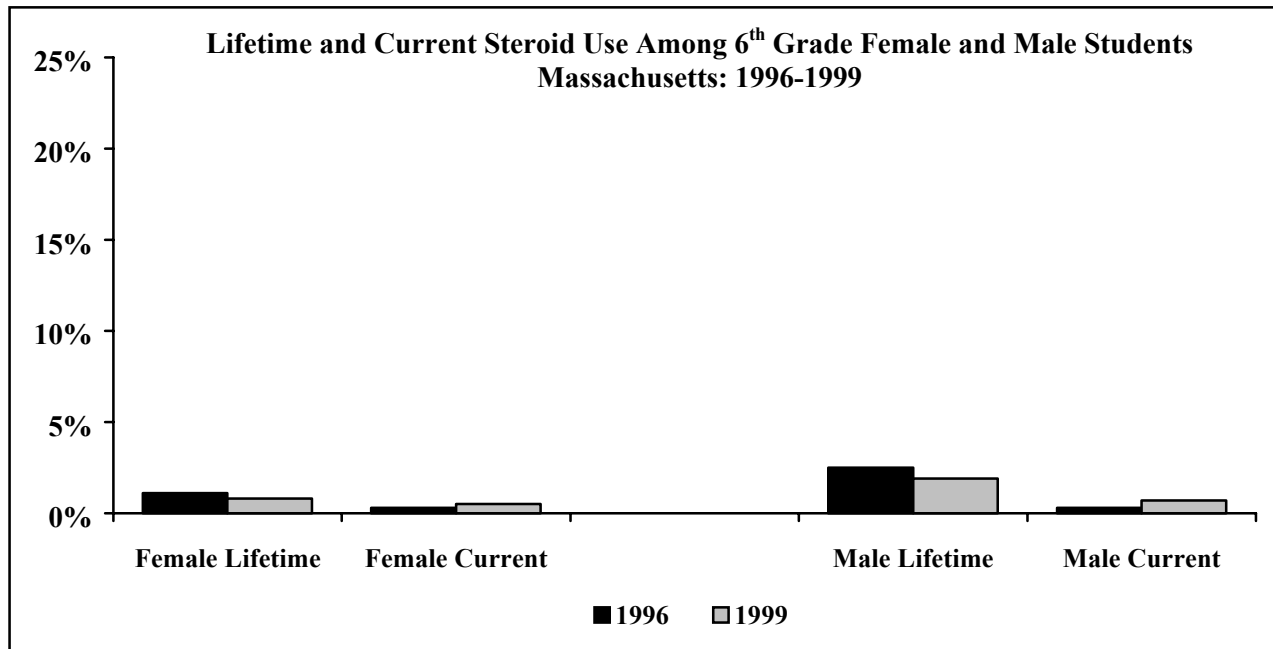
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Among high school girls, there was a significant decrease of 29% in the reported use of tranquilizers from 1996 (27%) to 1999 (19%). In 1999, 8% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade females reported using tranquilizers in the 30 days prior to completing the survey, as compared to 9% in 1996.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 20% of male high school students reported lifetime use of tranquilizers as compared to 21% in 1996. The proportion of male 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting current tranquilizer use went from a reported 8% in 1996 to 9% in 1999.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 51.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

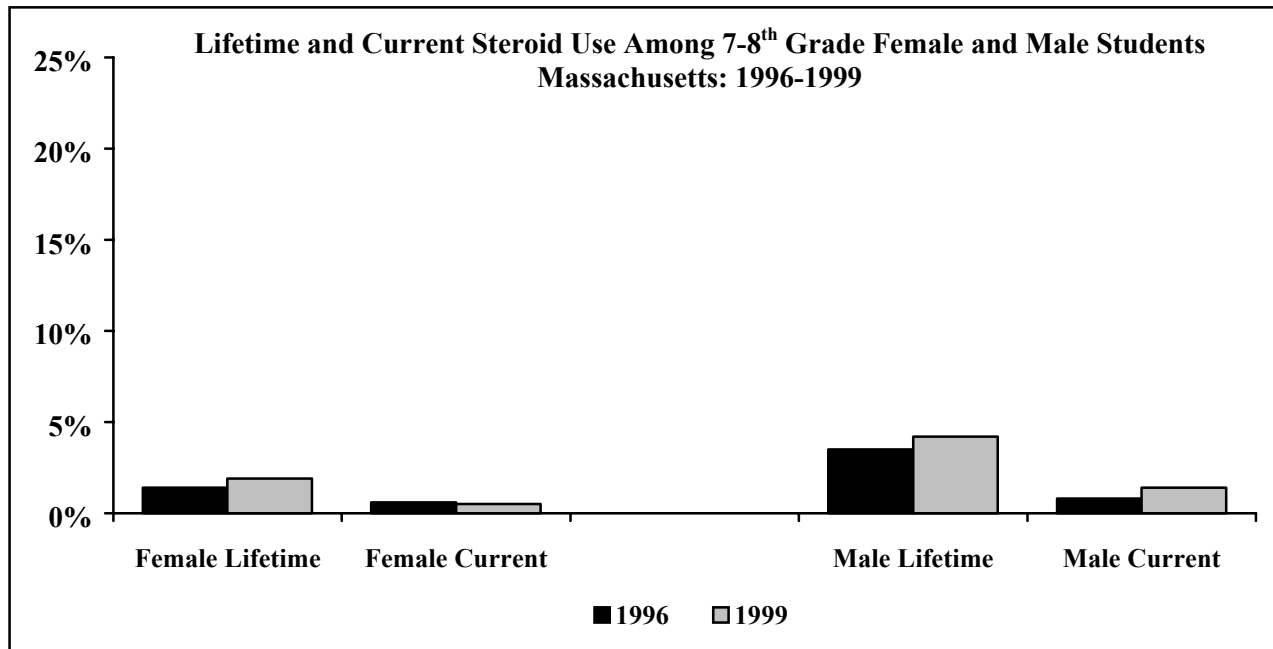
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- Female Students** – In 1999, approximately 1% of female 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported lifetime steroid use, similar to that reported in 1996 (1.1%). Girls in grade 6 reported a current steroid use of 0.3%, as compared to 0.1% reported in 1996.
- Male Students** – In 1999, 2% of boys in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported using steroids at least once in their lifetime, as compared to 1996 (3%). Although prevalence rates remained relatively low, a significant increase in current steroid use was reported among 6<sup>th</sup> grade males from 1996 (0.1%) to 1999 (0.7%).

## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 52.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

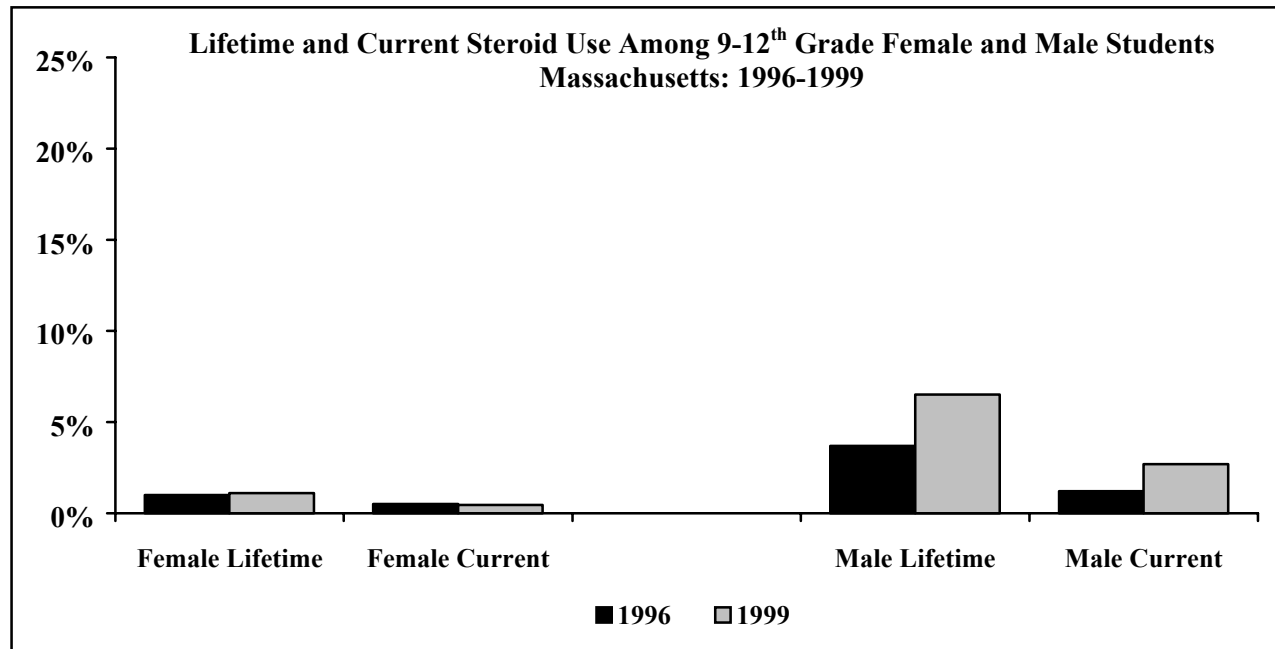
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, both lifetime and current reported steroid use remained fairly consistent over the past three years. In 1999, lifetime steroid use was reported by 2% and current use was reported by 0.5% of middle school girls.
- **Male Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, both lifetime and current reported steroid use remained fairly consistent over the past three years. In 1999, lifetime steroid use was reported by 4% of middle school boys, while 1% reported current use.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 53.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

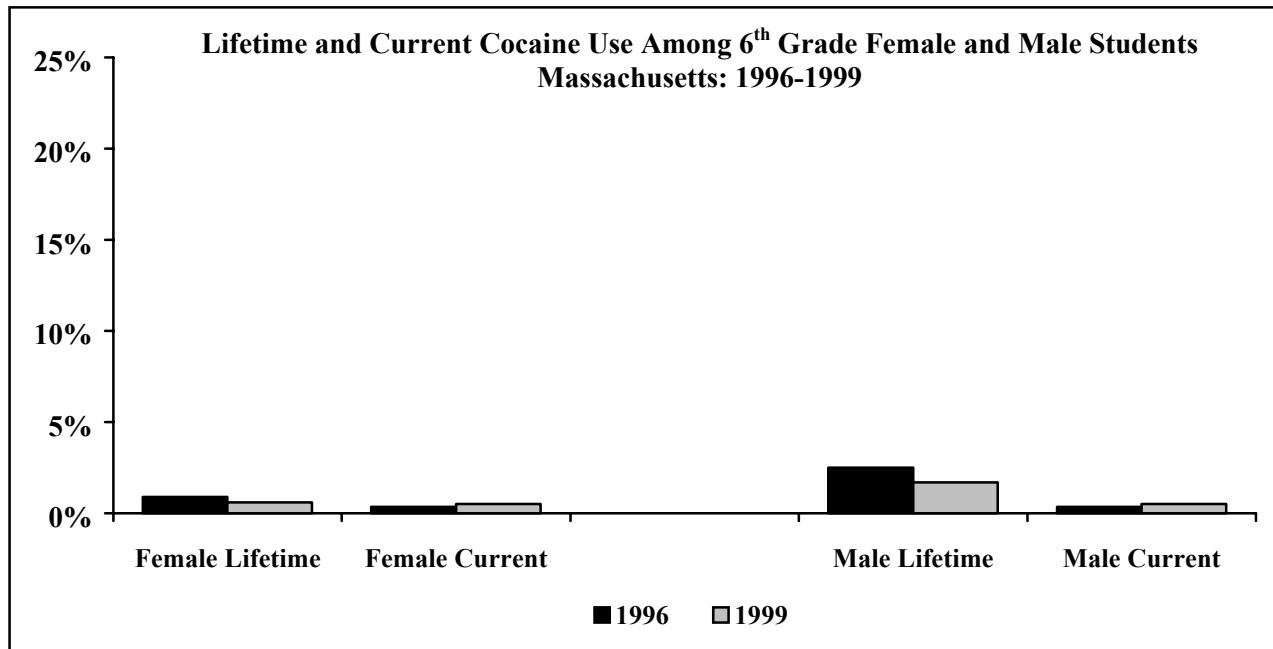
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Girls in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported consistent lifetime and current steroid use over the past three years. In 1999, 1% of high school females reported using steroids at least once in their lifetime, while 0.3% reported current use.
- **Male Students** – Lifetime steroid use rose significantly from 1996 (4%) to 1999 (7%), as did current use (1% to 3%, respectively).

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 54.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

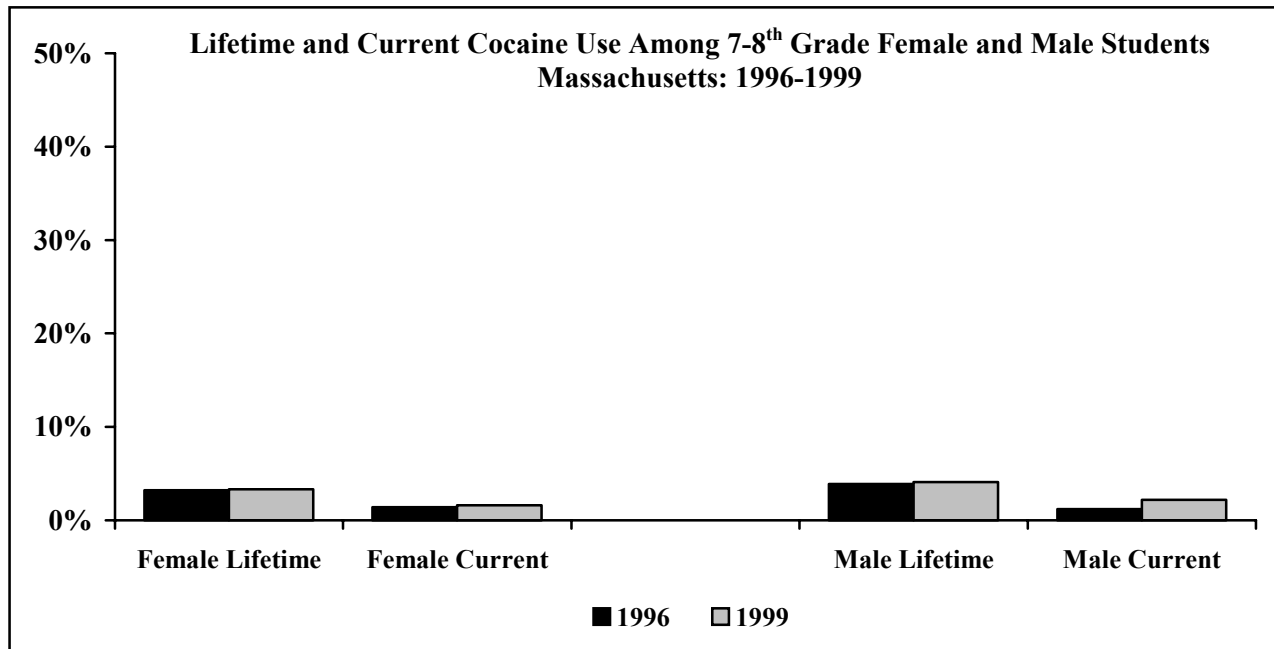
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- Female Students** – Lifetime cocaine/crack use remained fairly constant from 1996 (0.9%) to 1999 (0.6%) as reported by girls in 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Also, in 1999, 0.3% of students reported current use, as compared with 0.1% in 1996.
- Male Students** – Among 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys, both reported lifetime and current cocaine/crack use indicated a downward trend. In 1999, 2% of male 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using cocaine/crack in their lifetime, as compared to 3% in 1996. Less than 1% reported current cocaine/crack use, while in 1996, 1.4% reported using cocaine/crack in the 30 days prior to completing the survey.

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 55.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

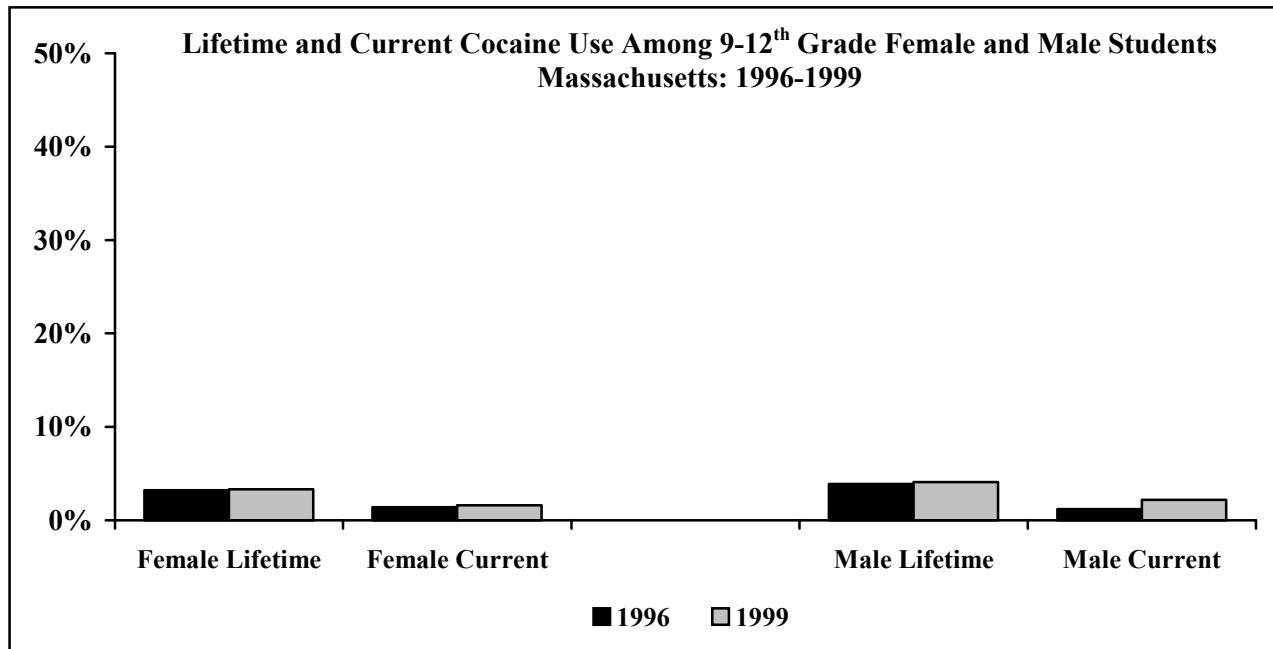
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions*

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Among girls in grades 7-8<sup>th</sup>, reported lifetime (3%) and current (2%) cocaine/crack use remained fairly consistent with prevalence rates reported in 1996 (3% and 1.4%, respectively).
- **Male Students** – As reported by boys in middle school, lifetime cocaine/crack use remained constant at 4%, while current use rose from 1% in 1996 to slightly over 2% in 1999.

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 53.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

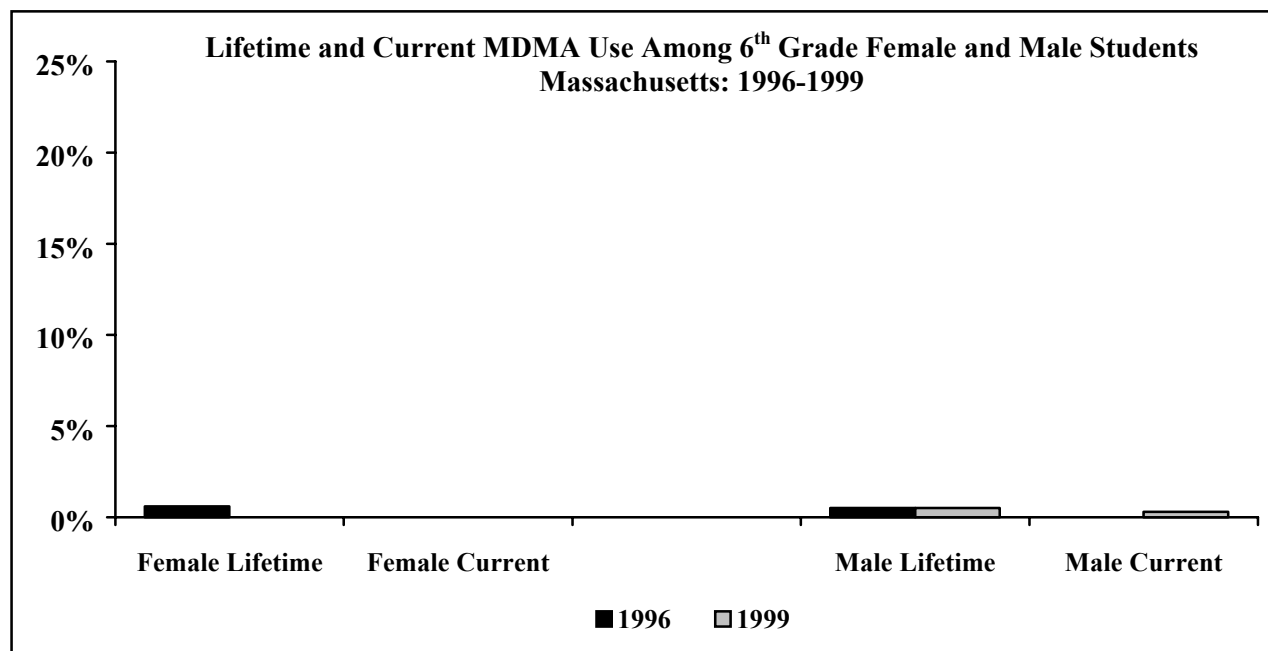
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions*

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** -- Both lifetime and current cocaine/crack use reported by 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade girls remained fairly constant over the past three years. In 1999, 6% of female high school students reported lifetime use, while 2% reported current cocaine/crack use.
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 10% of high school boys reported using cocaine/crack in their lifetime, a significant increase from that reported in 1996 (6%). Current use also significantly increased from 1996 (3%) to 1999 (5%) among this male age group.

## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 57.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

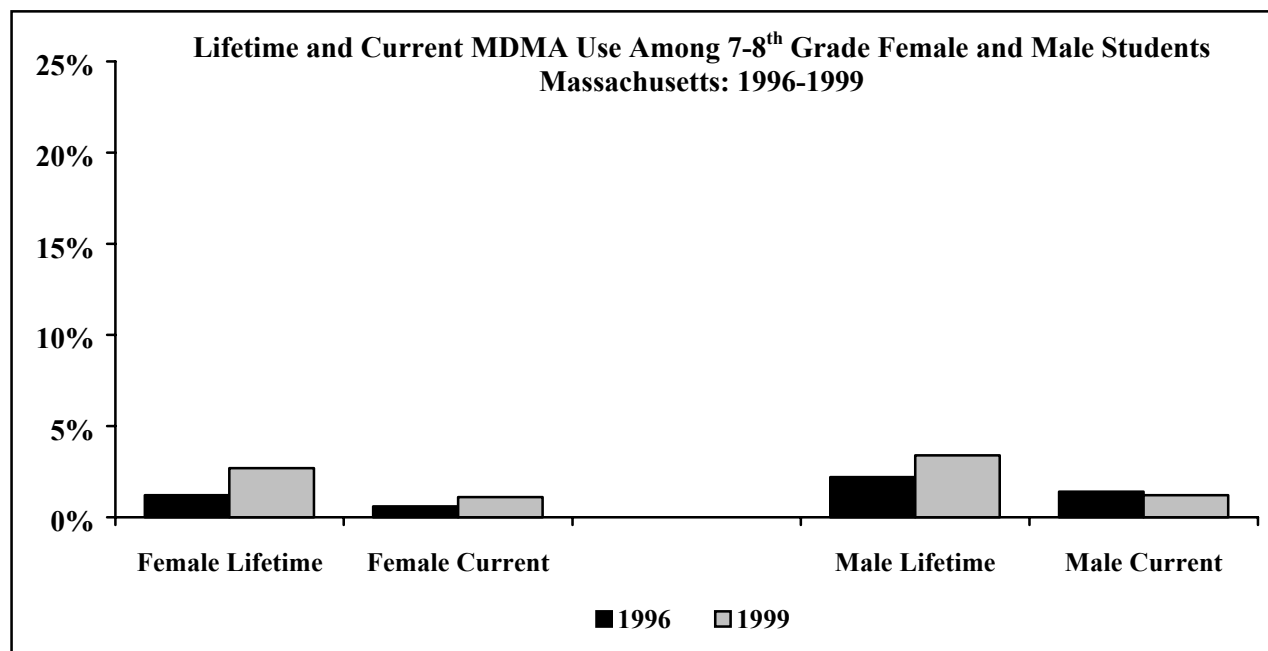
### Grade 6:

- **Female Students** – In 1999, no lifetime and no current MDMA use was reported by 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls, fairly consistent with that reported in 1996 (0.6% and 0%, respectively).
- **Male Students** – Over the past three years, reported lifetime MDMA use remained consistent at 0.5%. In 1999, 0.3% of boys in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported using MDMA within the 30 days prior to completing the survey. In 1996, there was no current MDMA use reported by 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys.



## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 58.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

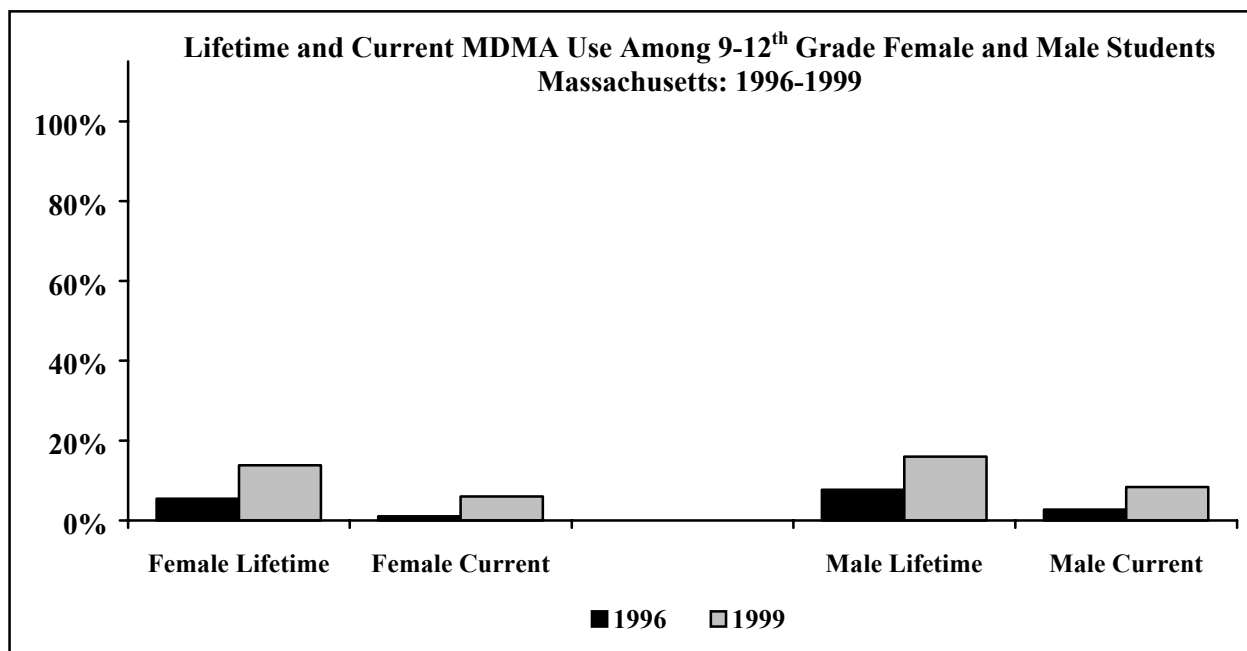
*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grades 7-8:

- **Female Students** – Female students in middle school reported a significant increase in the lifetime MDMA from 1996 (1%) from 1999 (3%). Current MDMA use remained fairly constant at approximately 1%.
- **Male Students** – Among boys in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade, lifetime MDMA use trended upward slightly from 2% in 1996 to over 3% in 1999. Current MDMA use remained constant at approximately 1%.

## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 59.



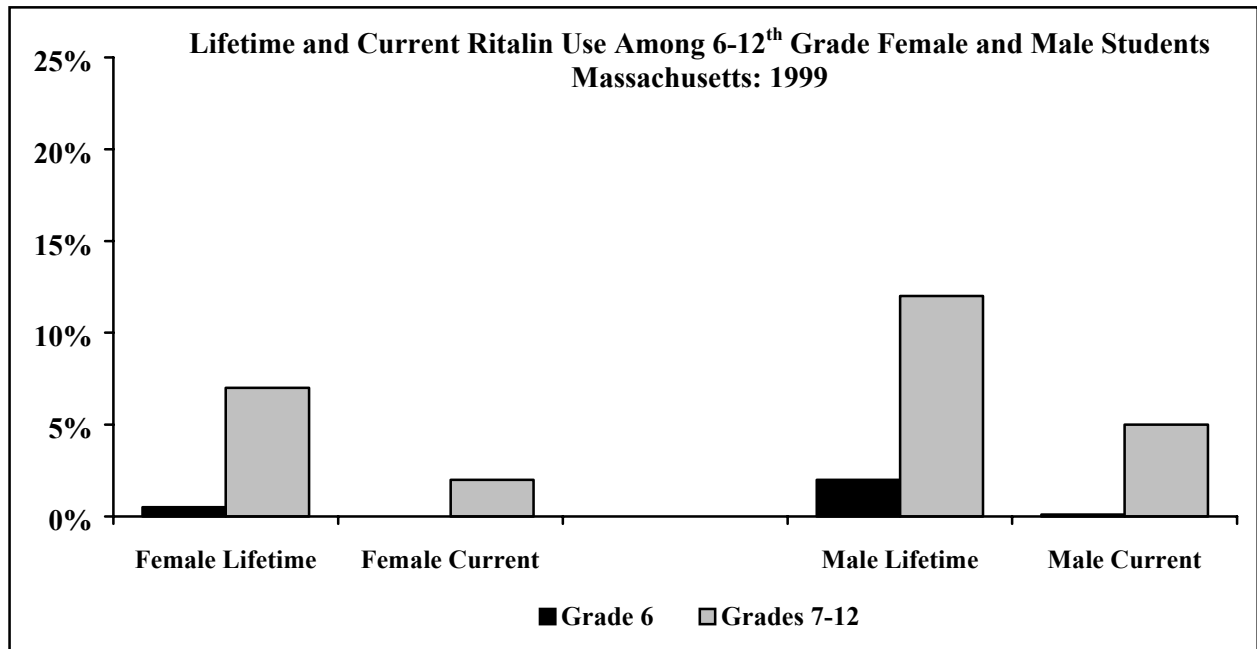
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **Female Students** – Among females in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup>, there was a significant increase in the reported lifetime use of MDMA from 1996 (5%) to 1999 (14%). Reported current MDMA use significantly rose as well from 1996 (1%) to 1999 (6%).
- **Male Students** – In 1999, 16% of high school boys reported using MDMA at least once in their lifetime, a significant increase from 1996 (8%). Also, there was a significant increase in reported current MDMA use from 1996 (3%) to 1999 (8%).

## UNAUTHORIZED RITALIN USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 60.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

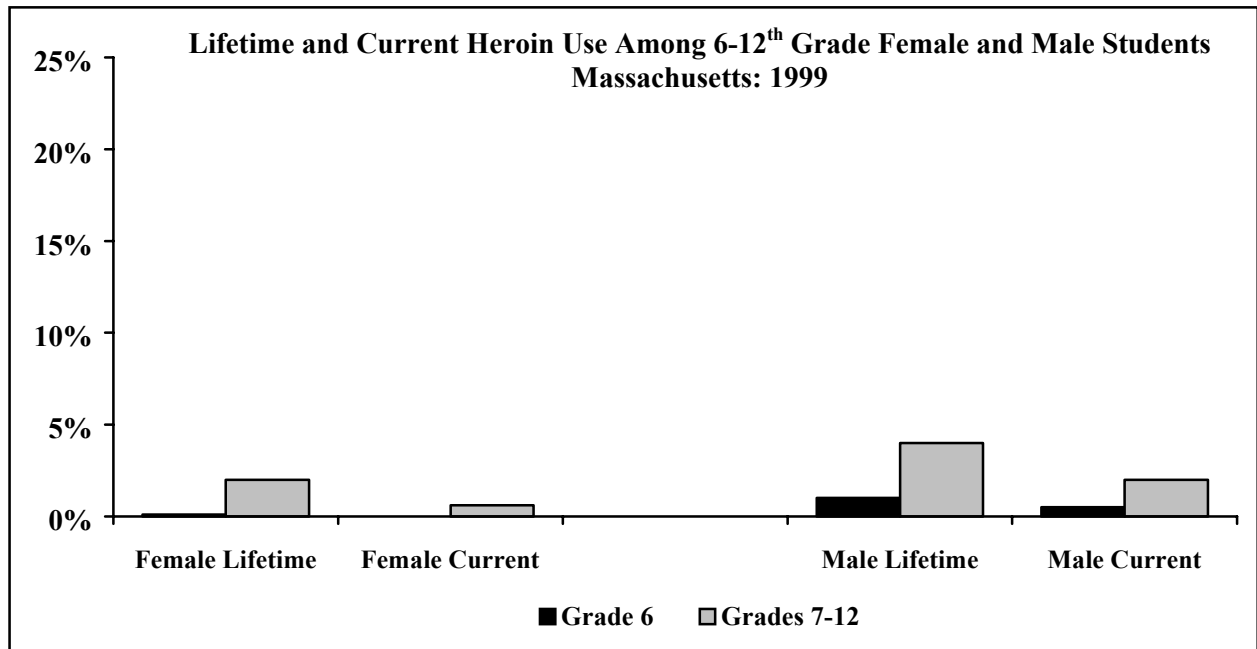
- In 1999, 2% of boys and 0.5% of girls in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported the unauthorized use of Ritalin at least once in their lifetime, while 0.1% of boys and no girls reported current use.

### Grades 7-12:

- In 1999, 12% of males and 7% of females in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported unauthorized lifetime Ritalin use, while 5% of males and 2% of females reported using Ritalin within the 30 days prior to completing the survey.

## HEROIN USE BY GRADE AND GENDER

Figure 61.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

*\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions*

### Grade 6:

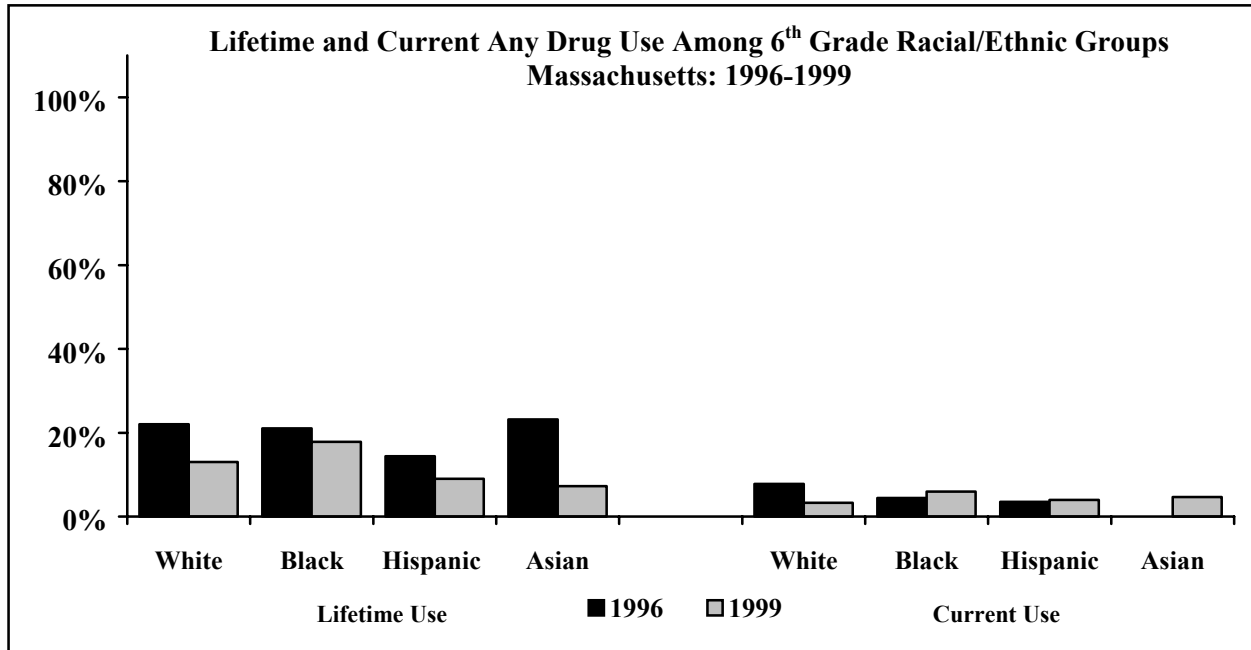
- In 1999, 1% of boys and 0.1% of girls in grade 6 reported lifetime use of heroin, while less than 1% of boys and no girls reported current use.

### Grades 7-12:

- In 1999, 4% of males and 2% of females in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade reported using heroin at least once in their lifetime, as compared to 2% of males and 0.6% of females reporting current heroin use.

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 62.



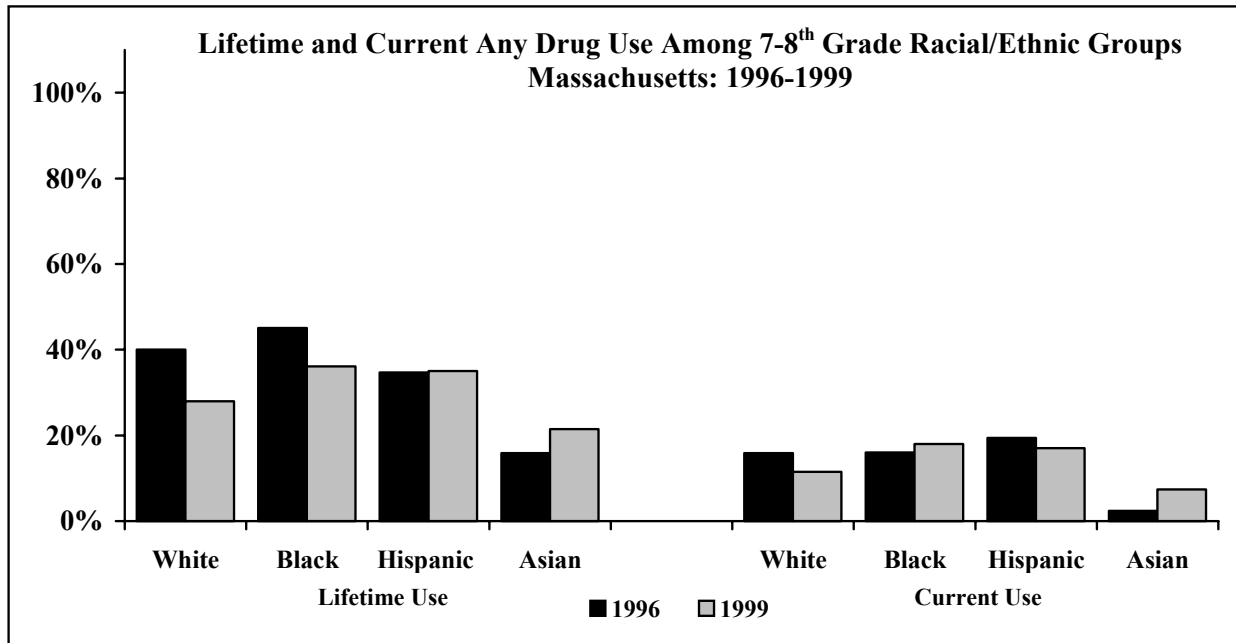
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – Among 6<sup>th</sup> grade white students, lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) declined significantly by 40% from 1996 (22%) to 1999 (13%). Additionally, current any drug use dropped significantly by 58% from 1996 (8%) to 1999 (3%).
- **Black Students** – Black students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported a slight decline in lifetime any drug use from 1996 (21%) to 1999 (18%), while current use rose slightly from a reported 4% to 6%, respectively.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Between 1996 and 1999, lifetime use of any drug fell slightly (14% to 9%, respectively), while current use remained stable at approximately 4% among Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- **Asian Students** -- Asian students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported a substantial decline in lifetime any drug use from 1996 (23%) to 1999 (7%). On the other hand, in 1999, current use rose from 0% to 5%.

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 63.



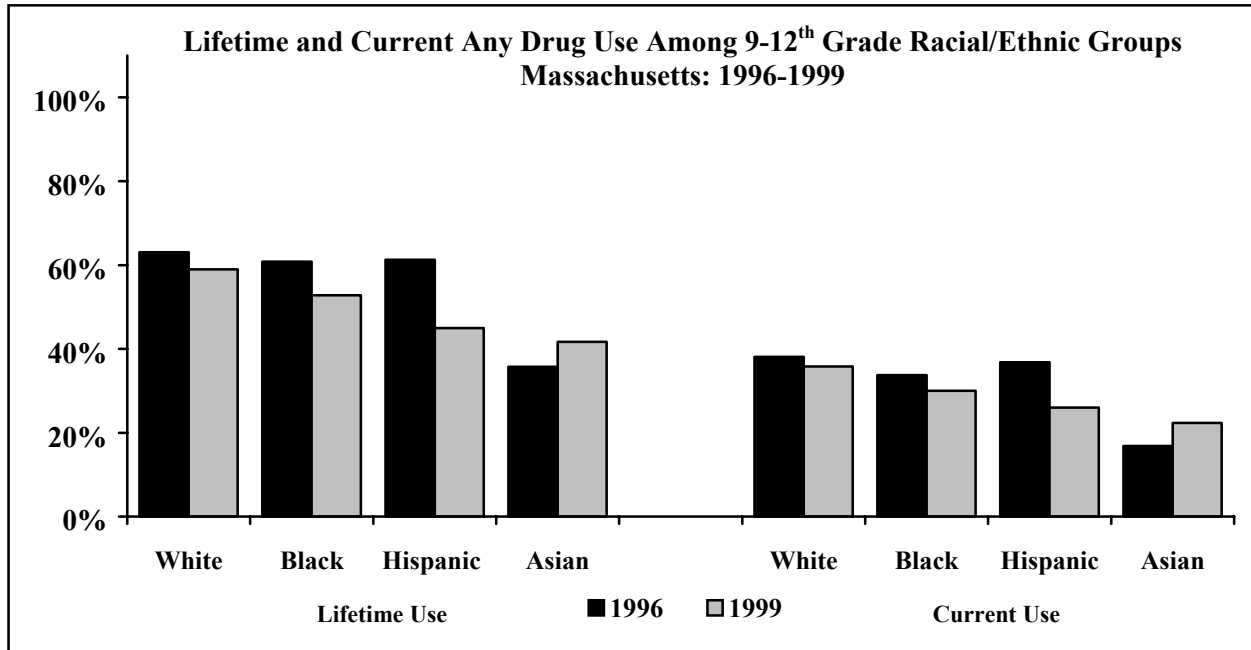
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – In grades 7-8<sup>th</sup>, whites reported a significant decline of 24% in the lifetime use of any drug (other than alcohol and tobacco) from 1996 (37%) to 1999 (28%). In 1999, current use of any drug decreased slightly to 12%, down from 16% in 1996.
- **Black Students** – In 1999, 36% of middle school black students reported using any drug in their lifetime, a drop from 1996 (45%). Current any drug use rose only slightly from 16% in 1996 to 18% in 1999.
- **Hispanic Students** – Over the past years, any drug use remained fairly stable with 35% of Hispanics in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade reporting lifetime use and approximately 17% reporting current use.
- **Asian Students** -- From 1996 to 1999, Asian students in middle school reported a slight rise in lifetime any drug use (16% to 22%, respectively), and a significant rise in current use (2% to 7%, respectively).

## ANY DRUG USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 64.



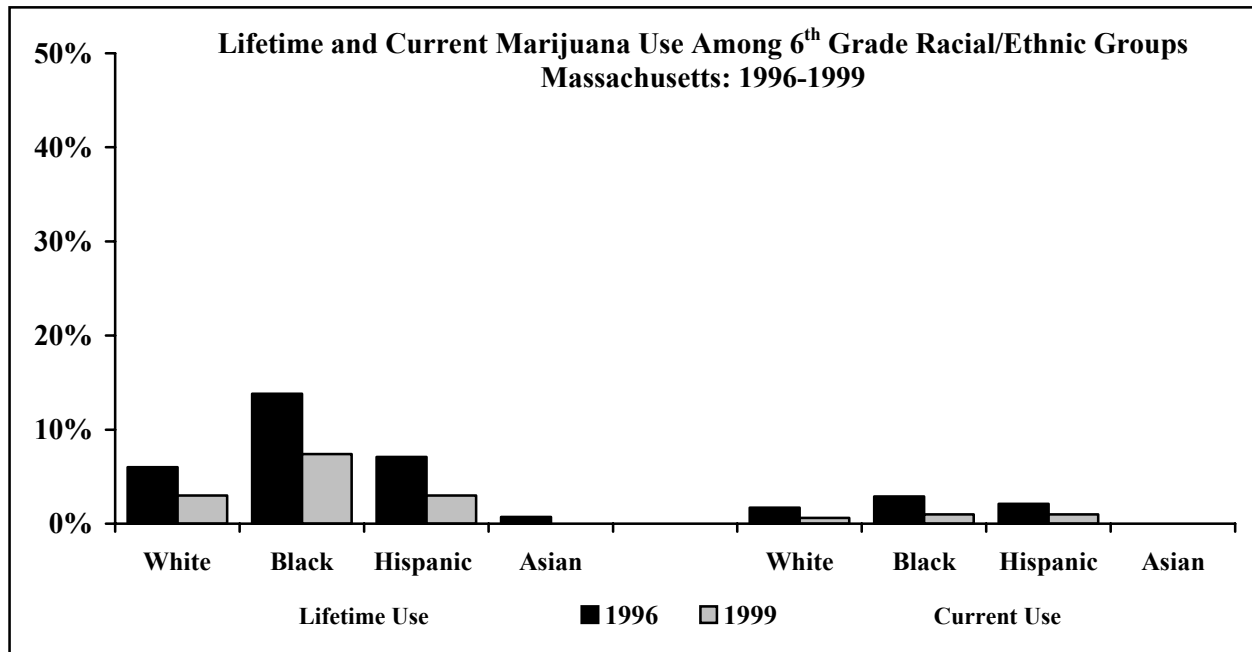
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – White 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported a slight decrease in any drug use (other than alcohol and tobacco) from 1996 (63%) to 1999 (59%), while current use remained fairly consistent at 36%.
- **Black Students** – Over the past three years, high school black students indicated a slight decline in lifetime any drug use (61% to 53%). Reported current any drug use dropped similarly from 1996 (34%) to 1999 (30%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 45% of Hispanic 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported lifetime use of any drug, a significant decrease of 36% from 1996 (61%). Current use also dropped significantly from 1996 (37%) to 1999 (26%).
- **Asian Students** -- Both lifetime and current any drug use rose among Asian high school students. Between 1996 and 1999, reported lifetime use increased from 36% to 42%, while current use increased from 17% to 22%.

## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 65.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

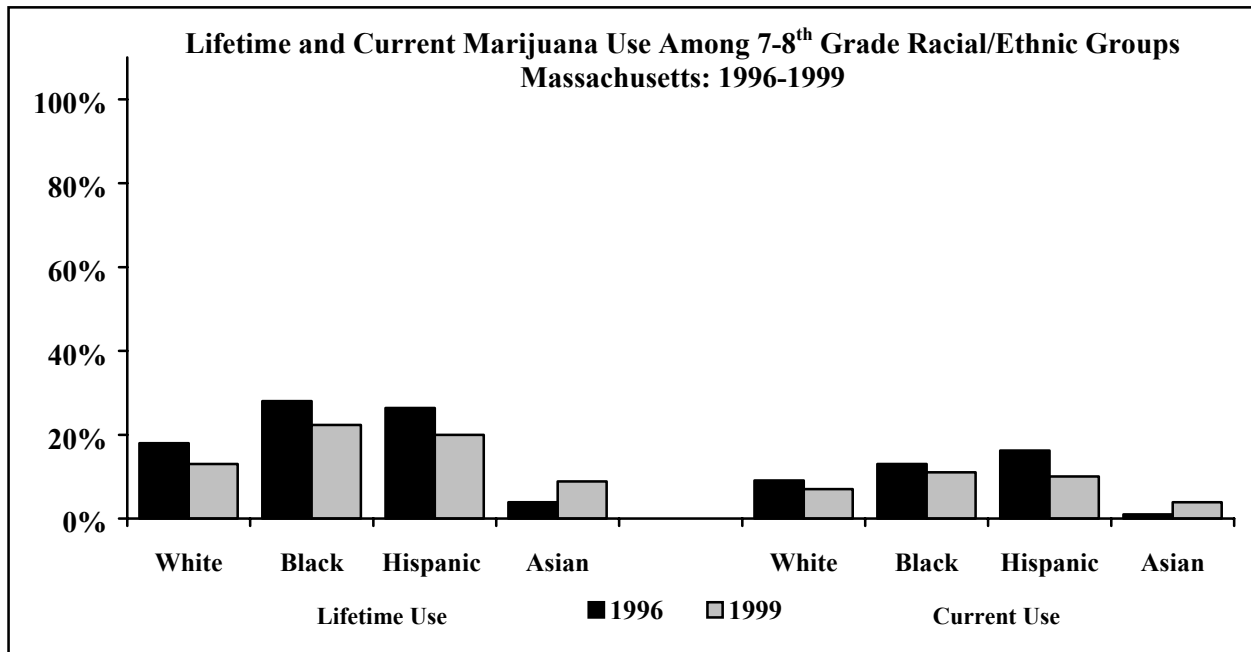
### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – White students in grade 6 reported a significant decline of 51% in lifetime use of Marijuana from 1996 (6%) to 1999 (3%). Current marijuana use dropped slightly from nearly 2% in 1996 to less than 1% in 1999.
- **Black Students** – Between 1996 and 1999, both lifetime and current marijuana use trended downward as reported by 6<sup>th</sup> grade black students. Lifetime marijuana use dropped from 14% to 7%, and current use declined from 3% to less than 1%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Between 1996 and 1999, reported lifetime use dropped from 7% to 3%, while reported current use remained fairly stable at approximately 1% among Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, Asian 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported no lifetime or current marijuana use. These rates were very similar to those reported in 1996 with the exception of the 0.7% lifetime use.



## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 66.



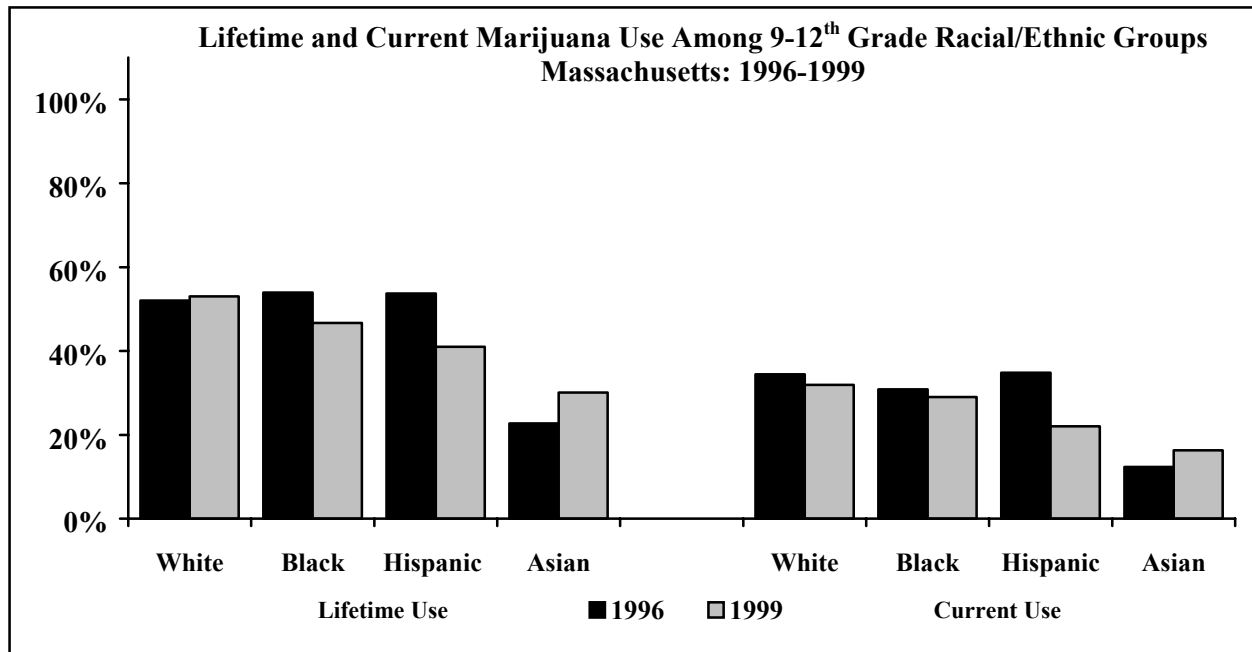
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade whites, lifetime marijuana use was reported by 13%, down slightly from 1996 (18%). Current use held steady at approximately 7%.
- **Black Students** – In 1999, 22% of Black students in middle school reported lifetime marijuana use, a slight decline from 1996 (28%). Current marijuana use also dropped slightly between 1996 (13%) and 1999 (11%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- Both lifetime and current marijuana use fell among Hispanics in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Between 1996 and 1999, reported lifetime use decreased from 26% to 20%, and current use declined from 16% to less than 10%.
- **Asian Students** -- Both lifetime and current marijuana use rose among Asian middle school students. In 1999, 9% of Asians reported lifetime marijuana use, up from 4% (1996). Current use increased from 1% to almost 4% over the past three years.

## MARIJUANA USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 67.



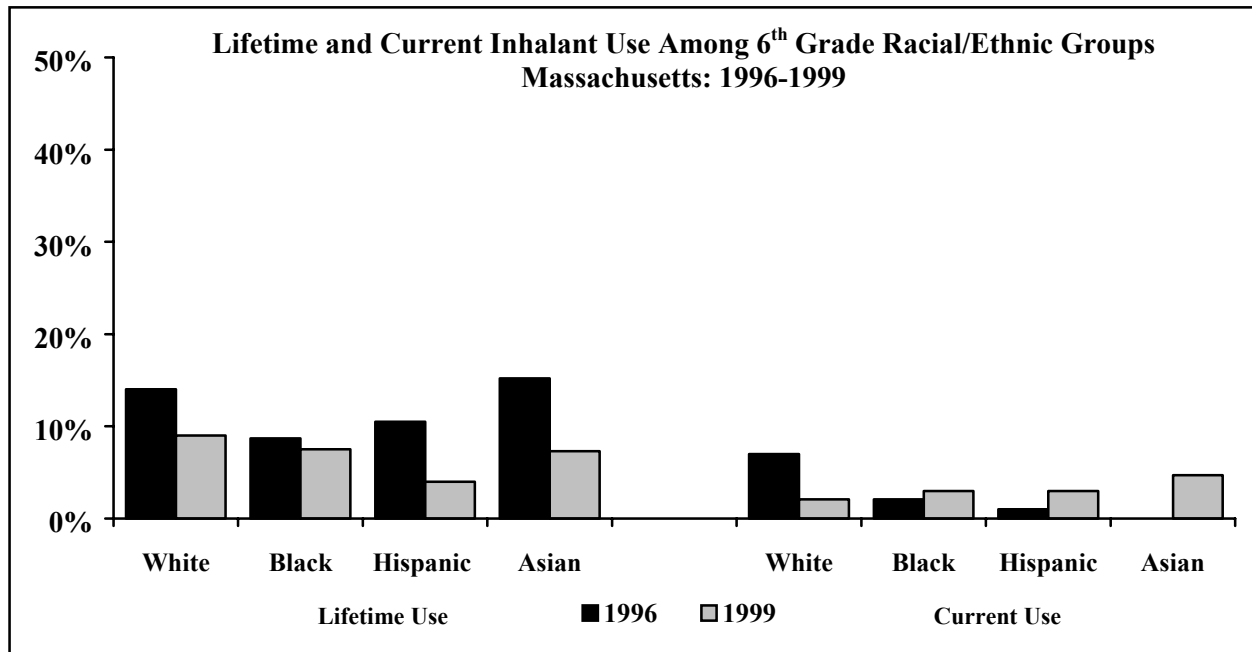
Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – White high school students reported fairly constant lifetime and current marijuana prevalence rates between 1996 and 1999, with 53% of whites reporting lifetime marijuana use and 32% reporting the use of marijuana within the 30 days prior to completing the survey.
- **Black Students** – Blacks in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported a lifetime marijuana use of 47% trending downward from the 54% reported in 1996. Current marijuana use also dropped slightly from 31% (1996) to 29% (1999).
- **Hispanic Students** -- Over the past three years, 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students reported a significant decline in both lifetime and current marijuana use. Lifetime use dropped from 54% to 41%, and current marijuana use fell from 35% to 22%.
- **Asian Students** -- Both reported lifetime and current marijuana use trended upward among Asian high school students. In 1999, lifetime use of marijuana rose slightly to over 30%, up from 23% in 1996. Similarly, current use rose slightly from 12% to 16% in the past three years.

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 68.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

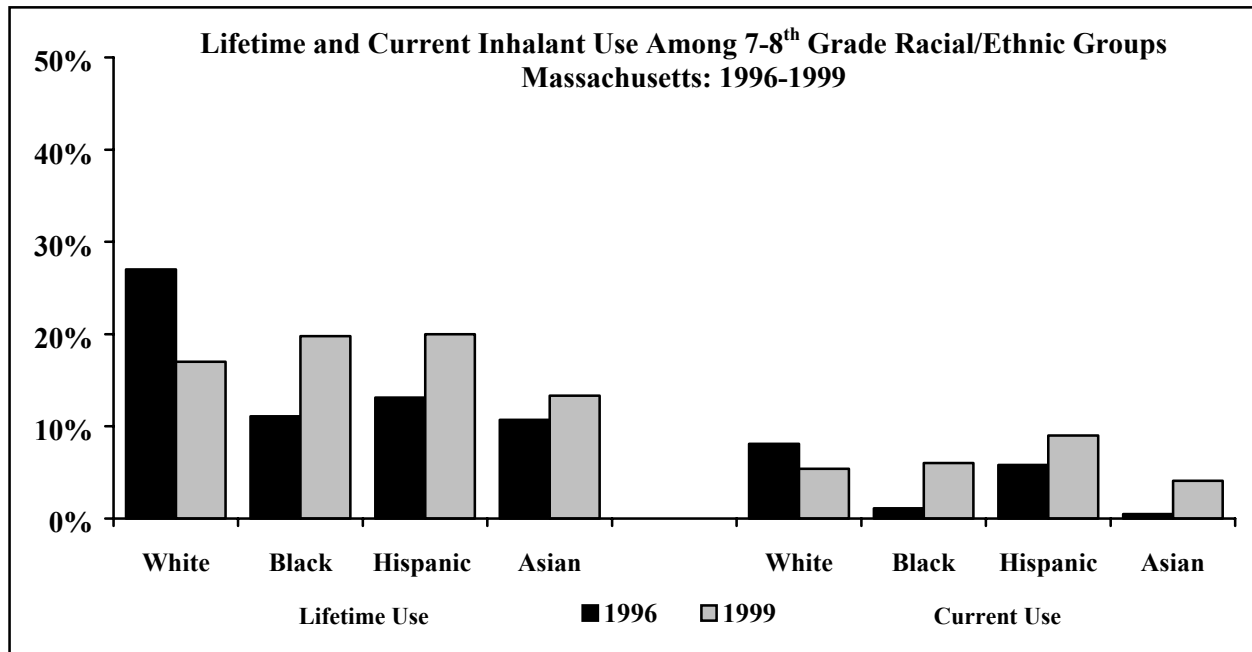
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – In 1999, white 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a 9% lifetime inhalant use rate, down from 14% (1996). Current inhalant use declined significantly by 70% from 1996 (7%) to 1999 (2%).
- **Black Students** – Blacks in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported a 7% lifetime inhalant use, a drop from 1996 (14%). Current inhalant use trended downward from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (1%).
- **Hispanic Students** – Between 1996 and 1999, reported lifetime inhalant use fell from over 10% to 4%. Current use however trended upward from 1% to 3% among 6<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students.
- **Asian Students** -- Similar to Hispanic students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Asians reported a drop in lifetime inhalant use from 15% to 7%, while current use trended upward from 1996 (0%) to 1999 (5%).

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 69.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

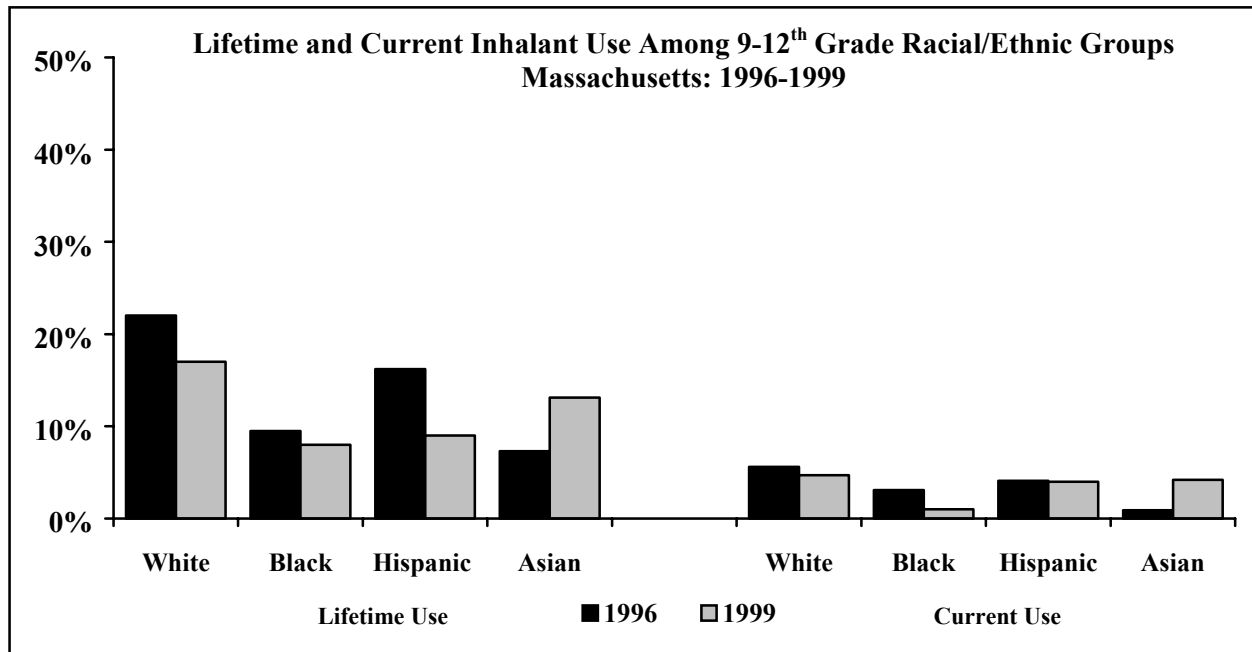
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – From 1996 (27%) to 1999 (17%), lifetime inhalant use fell significantly by 37% as reported by whites in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Current use dropped slightly from 8% to 5%.
- **Black Students** -- Among middle school black students, there was a slight rise in lifetime inhalant use from 1996 (11%) to 1999 (20%). Current use increased significantly from 1% to 6%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Both lifetime and current inhalant use rose slightly among Hispanics in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Over the past three years, lifetime use increased from 13% to 20%, while current inhalant use jumped from 6% to almost 9%.
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, while lifetime inhalant use trended upward, current use rose significantly. Asian middle school students reported a 13% lifetime use, up slightly from 11% in 1996. Less than 1% of Asians in 1996 reported a current inhalant use rate, which rose significantly to over 4% in three years.

## INHALANT USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 70.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

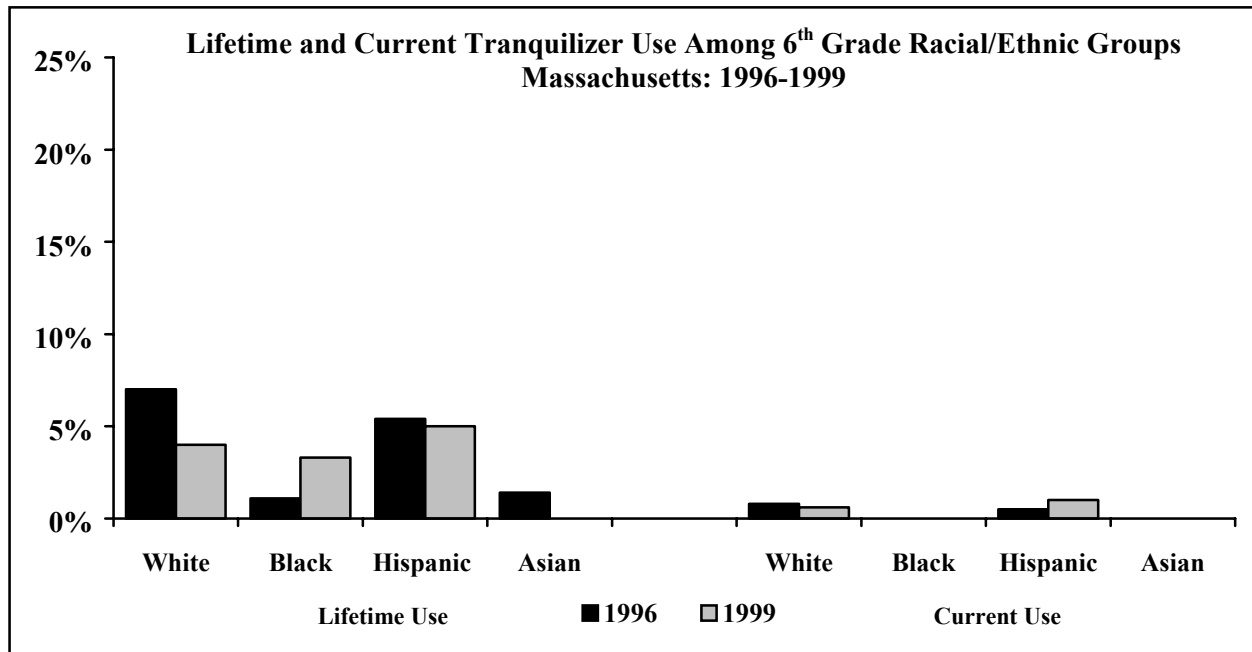
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – Reported lifetime inhalant use decreased significantly by 22% from 1996 (22%) to 1999 (17%) among high school whites. In 1999, current inhalant use remained fairly constant at 5%, down only slightly from the 6% reported in 1996.
- **Black Students** – High school black students reported an 8% lifetime inhalant use rate, down slightly from 10% reported in 1996. Current use fell from 3% (1996) to 1% (1999).
- **Hispanic Students** -- From 1996 to 1999, Hispanic high school students reported a 44% significant decrease in the lifetime use of inhalants (16% to 9%, respectively). Current use remained stable at approximately 4%.
- **Asian Students** -- In three years, lifetime inhalant use rose slightly among Asians in high school (7% to 13%). There was a significant increase reported in current use from less than 1% in 1996 to over 4% in 1999.

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 71.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

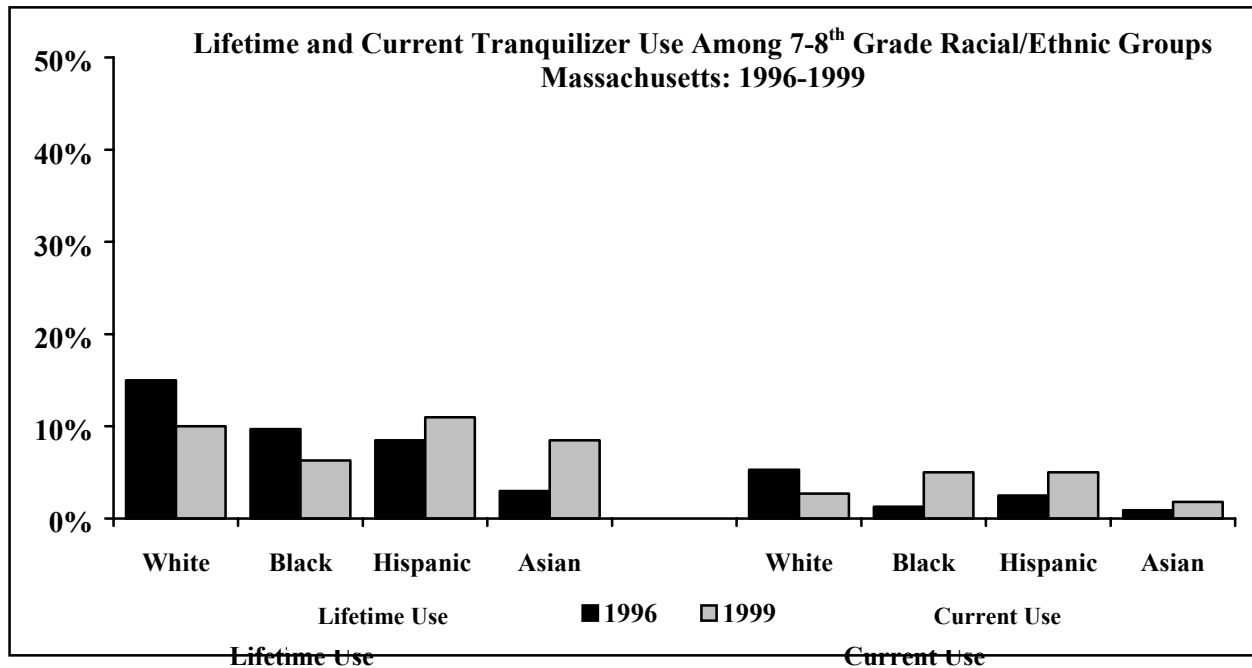
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – White 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported a slight drop in lifetime tranquilizer use from 1996 (7%) to 1999 (4%). Current use remained fairly stable at 0.6%.
- **Black Students** – In 1999, black 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reported a 3% lifetime tranquilizer use rate, a slight rise from 1% in 1996. Less than 1% reported using tranquilizers in the 30 days prior to completing the survey. No blacks reported current use in 1996.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Both lifetime and current tranquilizer use remained consistent for Hispanic students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1999, 5% reported lifetime use and 0.5% reported current use.
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, Asian 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported no lifetime or current tranquilizer use. In 1996, 1.4% reported lifetime use and no current use.

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 72.



Source: Triennial Psychiatric Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

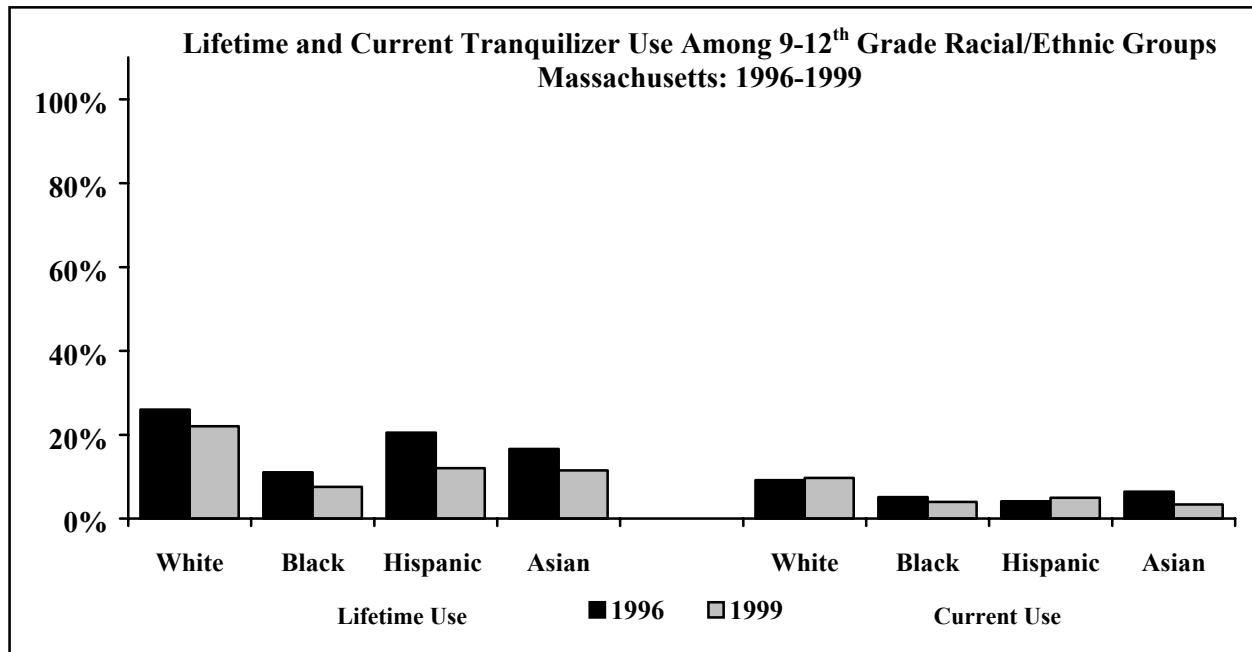
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – White 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported a significant decline of 31% in the lifetime tranquilizer use from 1996 (15%) to 1999 (10%). Current use was reported by 3% of whites, a significant decline of 49% from 1996 (5%).
- **Black Students** – In 1999, 6% of middle school blacks reported using tranquilizers at least once in their lifetime as compared to 10% in 1996. Current use increased significantly from 1996 (1%) to 1999 (5%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- Both lifetime and current tranquilizer use among Hispanic middle school students trended upward slightly. In 1999, lifetime use was reported by 11% of 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanics as compare to 9% in 1996. Current use went from 3% to 5%.
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, lifetime tranquilizer use rose significantly among Asian middle school students, rising from 3% to 9%. Over the past three years, current use also trended upward slightly from 1% to 2%.

## TRANQUILIZER USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 73.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

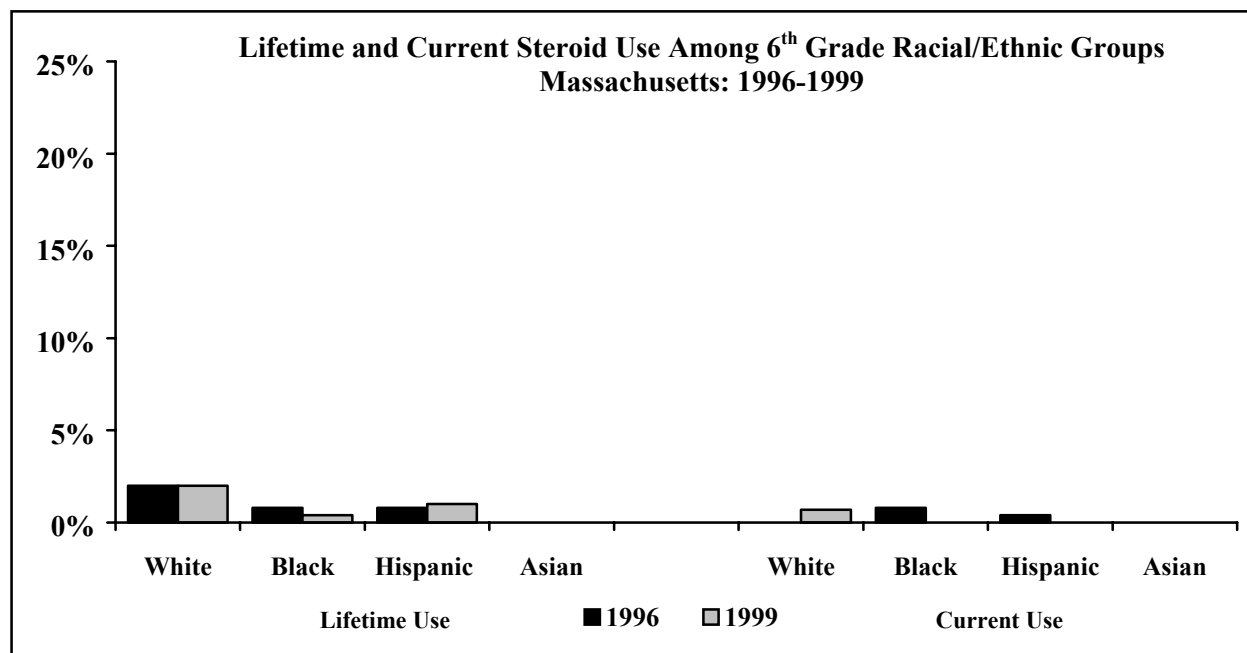
### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – The proportion of white 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting lifetime tranquilizer use dropped significantly by 15% from 1996 (26%) to 1999 (22%). Current use remained consistent at approximately 9%.
- **Black Students** – Among high school blacks, there was a slight decrease in the reported lifetime use of tranquilizers from 1996 (11%) to 1999 (8%). In 1999, 4% of black 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using tranquilizers in the 30 days prior to completing the survey, also down slightly from the 5% (1996).
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 12% of Hispanic high school students reported using tranquilizers in their lifetime, dropping significantly by 40% from 1996 (21%). Over the past three years, current use remained fairly consistent at almost 5%.
- **Asian Students** -- Lifetime and current tranquilizer use reported by Asians in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade trended downward from 1996 to 1999. Lifetime use went from 17% to 12% and reported current tranquilizer use dropped from 6% to 3%.



## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 74.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

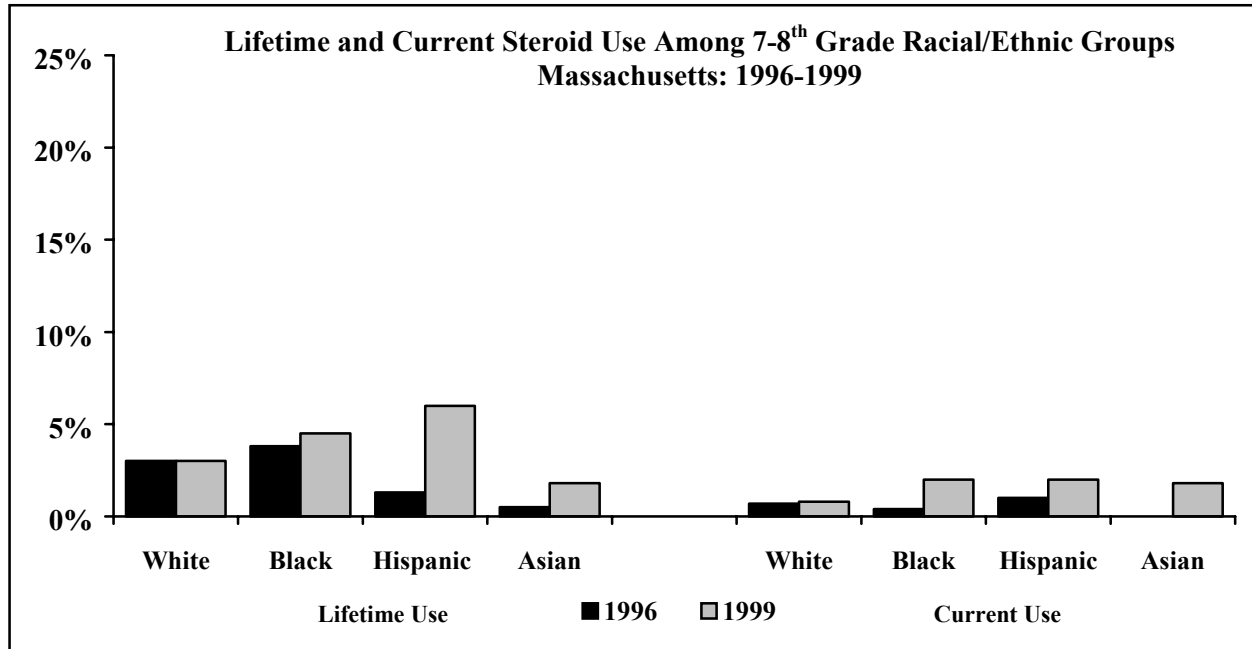
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – In 1999, 2% of white 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using steroids at least once in their lifetime, consistent with 1996. Although prevalence rates remained relatively low, a significant increase in current steroid use was observed from 1996 (0%) to 1999 (0.7%).
- **Black Students** – In 1999, 0.4% of black 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported lifetime steroid use, similar to 1996 (0.8%). No current steroid use was reported in 1999, down from 1996 (0.8%).
- **Hispanic Students** -- Between 1996 and 1999, stable lifetime steroid use was reported by Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> graders (0.8% and 0.9%, respectively). No current steroid use was reported in 1999, while 0.4% was reported in 1996.
- **Asian Students** -- Asian students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade reported no lifetime or current steroid use in either 1996 or 1999.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 75.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

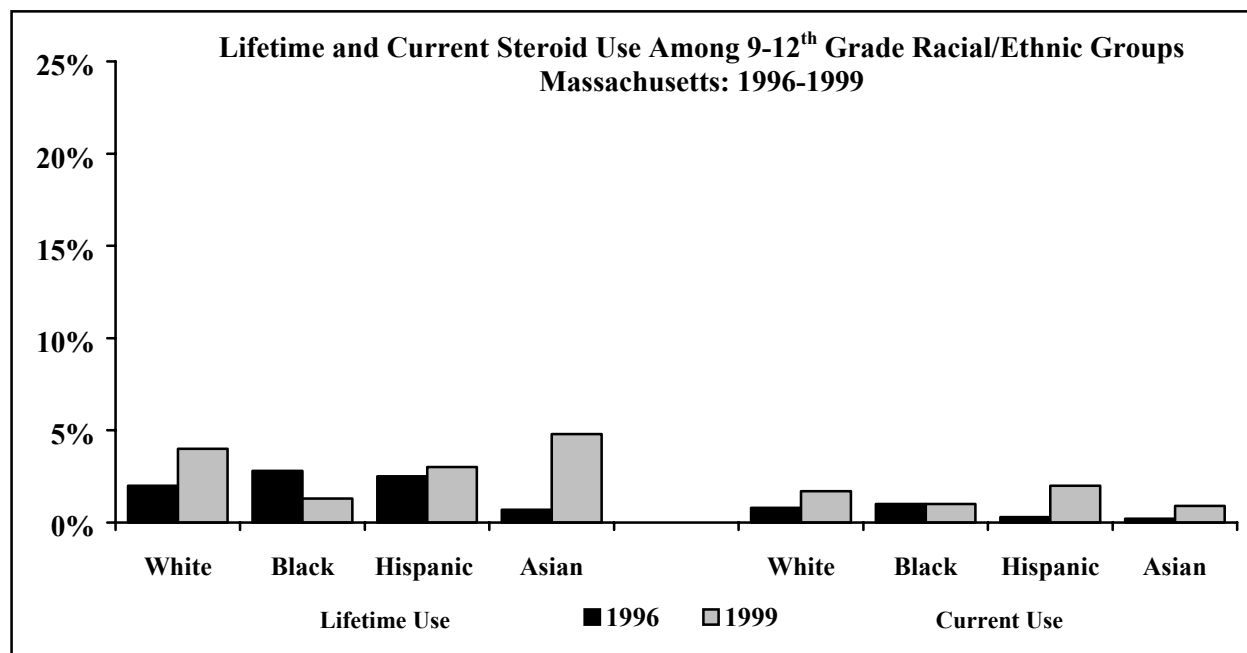
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – Among 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade whites, both lifetime (3%) and current (0.8%) steroid use remained stable from 1996 to 1999.
- **Black Students** – In 1999, black students in middle school reported a lifetime steroid use of 5%, a slight rise from 1996 (4%). The proportion of black 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting current use increased significantly from 0.4% in 1996 to over 2% in 1999.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Between 1996 and 1999, Hispanic 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reported a significant rise in lifetime steroid use, jumping from 1% to over 6%. In 1999, 2% reported current use, a slight increase from the 1% prevalence rate observed three years prior.
- **Asian Students** -- Both lifetime and current steroid use was reported by approximately 2% of Asians in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1996, 0.5% of Asian students reported lifetime use and no current use.

## STEROID USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 76.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

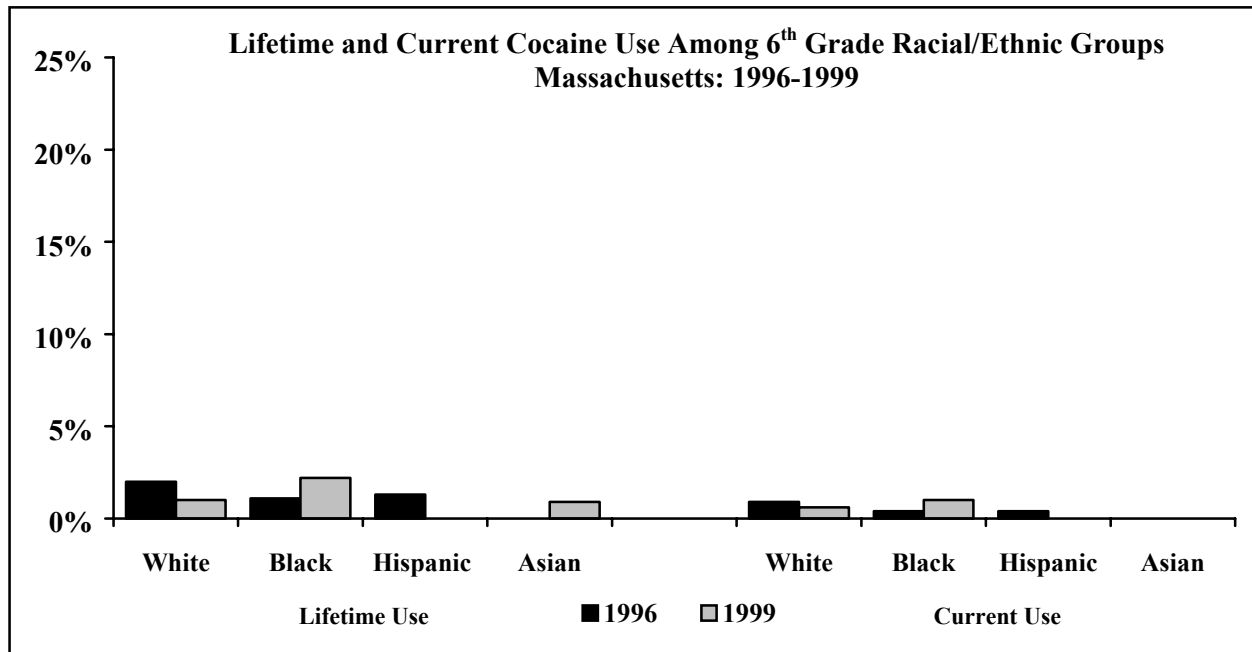
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – Among high school whites, lifetime steroid use rose significantly from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (4%), as did current use (0.8% to 2%, respectively).
- **Black Students** – Blacks in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> reported a slight drop in lifetime steroid use over the past three years (3% to 1%). Between 1996 and 1999, current use remained fairly consistent at approximately 1%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- High school Hispanics reported consistent lifetime use of steroids at 3%. However, current use increased significantly from 1996 (0.3%) to 1999 (2%).
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, 5% of Asian high school students reported using steroids at least once in their lifetime, increasing significantly from 1996 (0.7%). Current use remained at less than 1% for this population.

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 77.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

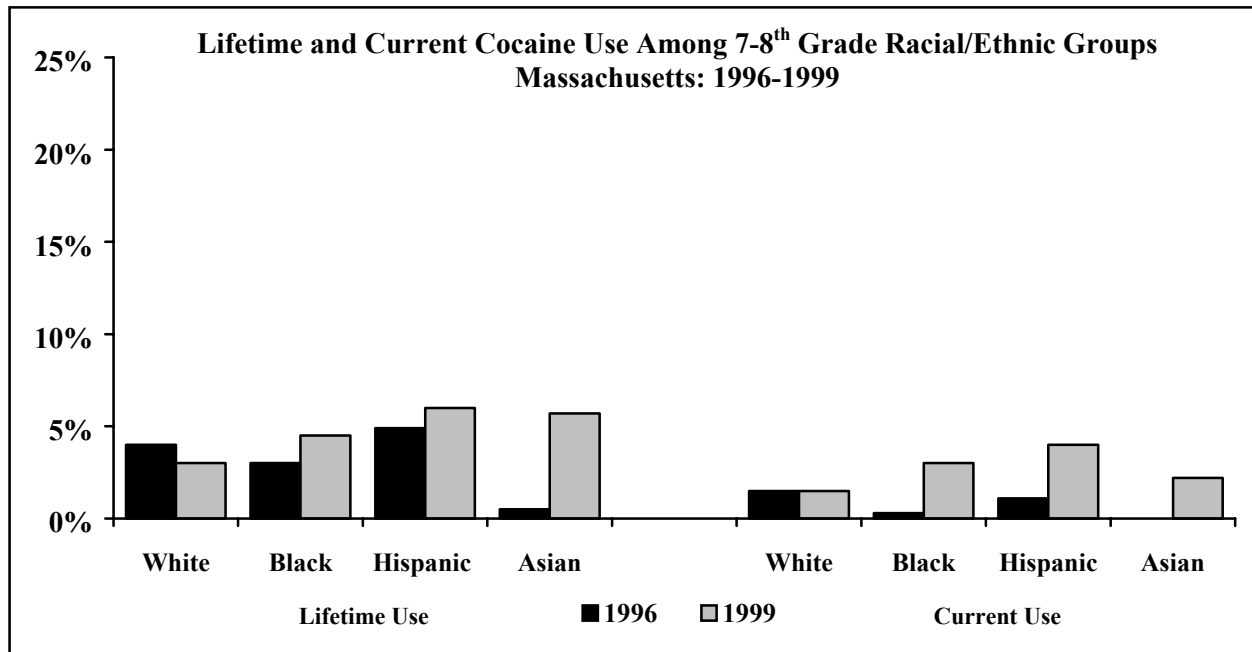
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grade 6:

- **White Students** – In 1999, 1% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade whites reported using cocaine/crack at least once in their lifetime, as compared to 2% in 1996. Less than 1% reported current use in both 1996 (0.9%) and 1999 (0.6%).
- **Black Students** – Although prevalence remained low, lifetime cocaine/crack use trended up from 1996 (1%) to 1999 (2%) as reported by black 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Current use stayed below 1% for this population.
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reported no lifetime or current cocaine/crack use. In 1996 however a 1% lifetime prevalence and a 0.4% current use rate was reported by Hispanic 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- **Asian Students** -- In 1999, 0.9% of Asian 6<sup>th</sup> graders reported using cocaine/crack at least once in their lifetime. No current use was indicated, similar to 1996.

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 78.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

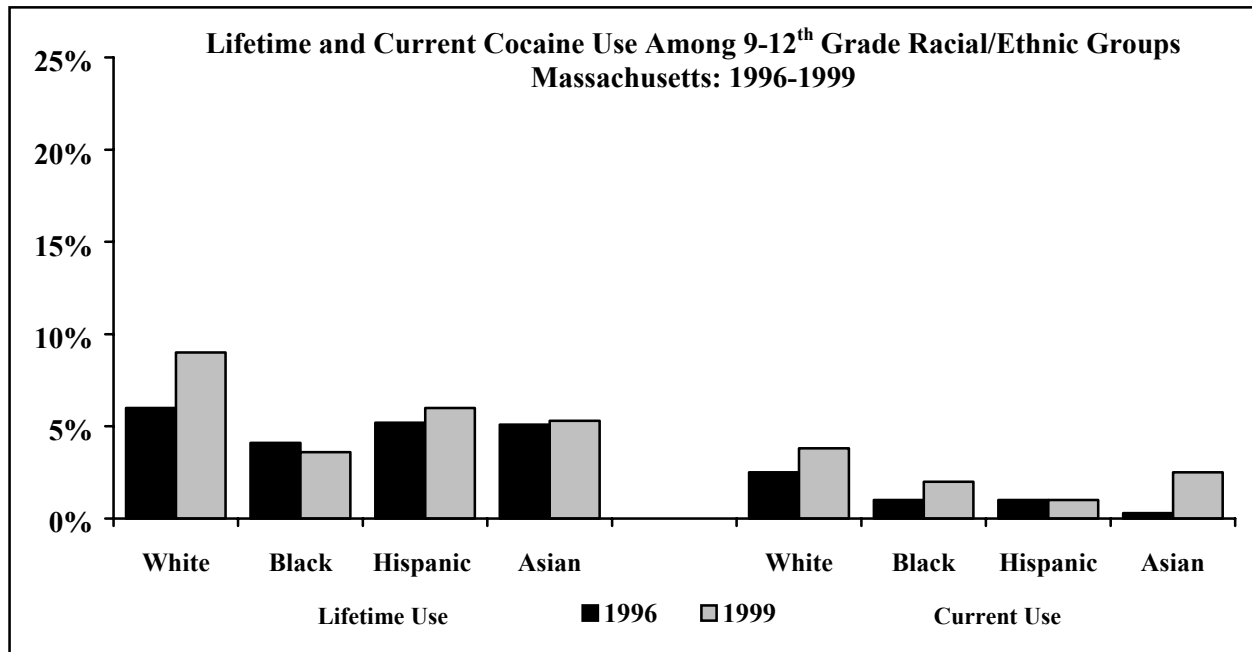
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – As reported by whites in middle school, both lifetime and current cocaine/crack use remained stable over the past three years. Lifetime use was reported at 3% and current use at 2%.
- **Black Students** – In 1999, black students in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade reported a lifetime cocaine/crack use of 5%, compared to 3% in 1996. There was a significant increase in current use between 1996 and 1999, jumping from 0.3% to 3%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Similar to blacks, Hispanic middle school students reported fairly comparable lifetime rates between 1996 (5%) and 1999 (6%), while exhibiting a significant increase in current cocaine/crack use (1% to 4%).
- **Asian Students** -- The proportion of Asian 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders reporting lifetime cocaine/crack use rose significantly from less than 1% (1996) to 6% (1999). Current use also rose from 0% to over 2%.

## COCAINE/CRACK USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 79.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

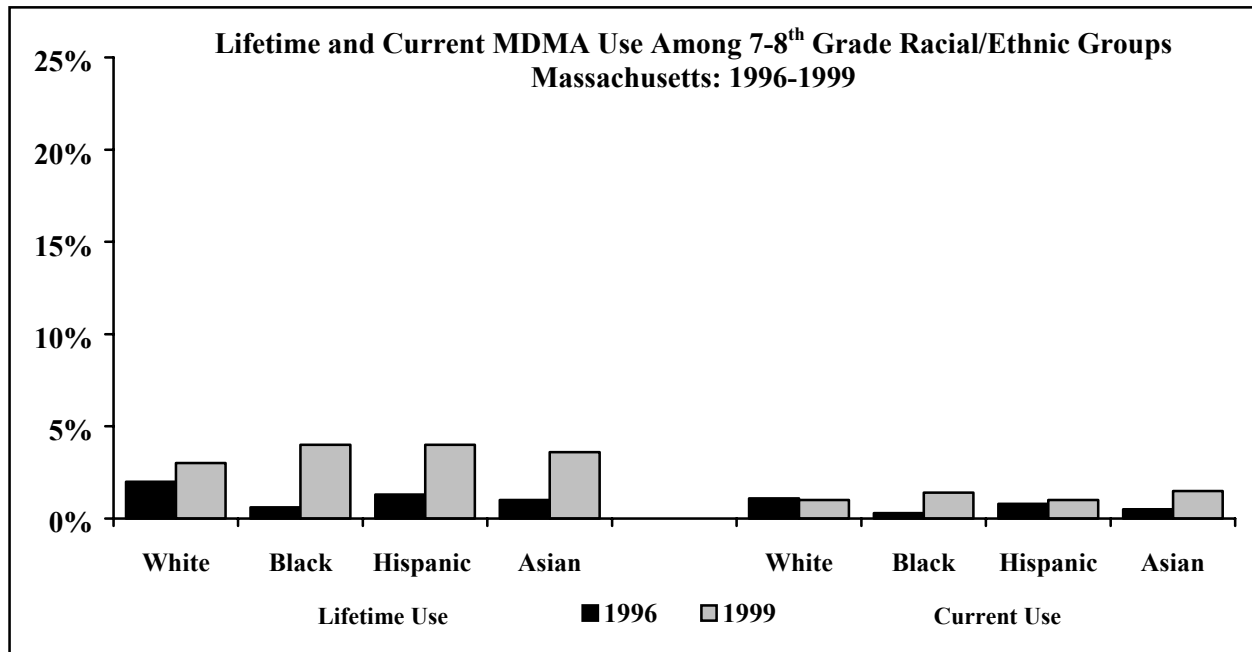
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – In 1999, 9% of high school white students reported using cocaine/crack in their lifetime, a significant increase from that reported in 1996 (6%). Over the past three years, current use trended slightly up from 3% to 4% among whites in this age group.
- **Black Students** -- In 1999, 4% of high school blacks reported lifetime use, consistent with 1996. Current cocaine/crack use rose slightly however from 1% to almost 2%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Hispanics in high school reported 6% lifetime cocaine/crack use in 1999, similar to the 5% reported in 1996. In three years, current use remained at approximately 1% among these students.
- **Asian Students** -- While lifetime use stayed around 5% for Asian 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders, current cocaine/crack use rose significantly from 1996 (0.3%) to 1999 (3%).

## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 80.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

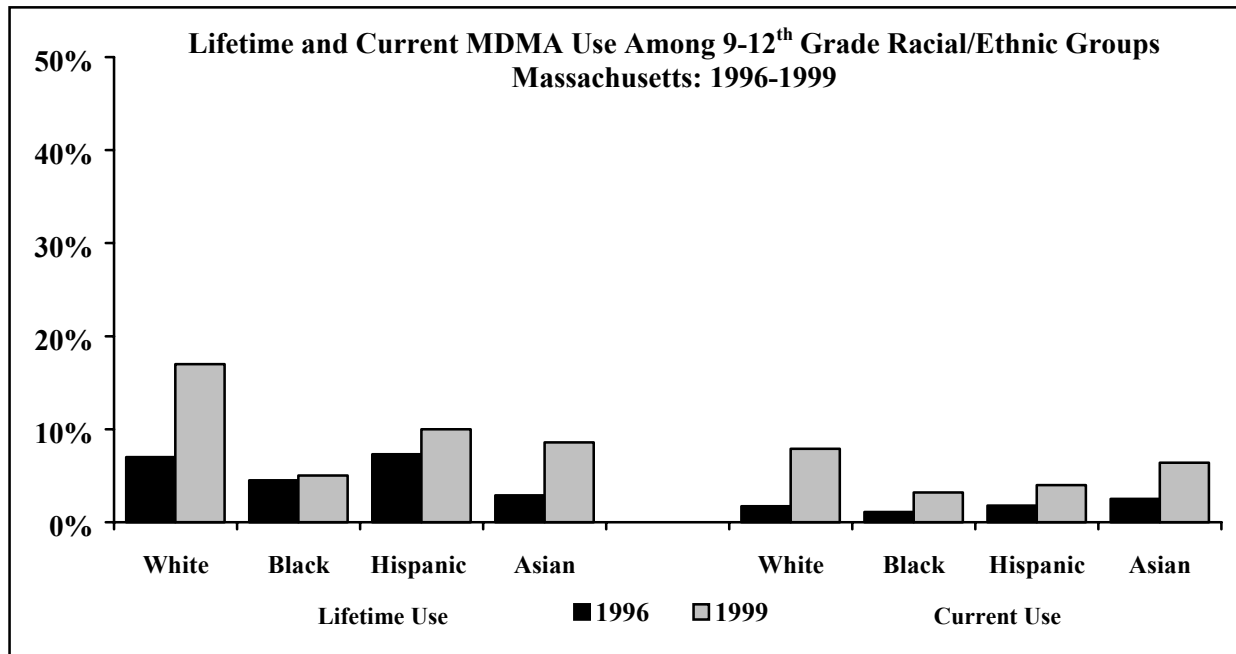
\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 25% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 7-8:

- **White Students** – Among whites in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grades, lifetime MDMA remained fairly consistent, rising slightly from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (3%). Reported current MDMA use stayed at around 1% over the past three years.
- **Black Students** – Black students in middle school reported a significant increase in the lifetime MDMA from 1996 (0.6%) to 1999 (4%). Current MDMA use rose only slightly from 0.3% to 1%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- Lifetime MDMA use rose significantly, increasing from 1% in 1996 to 4% in 1999. Hispanic students in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade reported fairly consistent current use at approximately 1%.
- **Asian Students** – Between 1996 and 1999, there was a notable increase in lifetime MDMA use among Asian middle school students (1% to 4%). Also, current use increased from 0.5% to 2%.

## MDMA/ECSTASY USE BY GRADE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 81.



Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\*Note: Data presented on a 0% - 50% scale due to small proportions

### Grades 9-12:

- **White Students** – Whites in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade reported the highest MDMA prevalence rates among all the students. In 1999, 17% of white high school students reported using MDMA at least once in their lifetime, a significant increase from 1996 (7%). Also, there was a significant increase in reported current MDMA use from 1996 (2%) to 1999 (8%).
- **Black Students** – There was little change in the reported lifetime use of MDMA from 1996 to 1999 with 5% of high school blacks reporting the use of MDMA at least once in their life. Current MDMA rose slightly from 1% to 3%.
- **Hispanic Students** -- In 1999, 10% of Hispanic 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using MDMA at least once in their lifetime, a slight increase from 1996 (7%). Although prevalence rates remained relatively low, a rise in current steroid use was also observed from 2% (1996) to 4% (1999).
- **Asian Students** -- Among Asians in grades 9-12<sup>th</sup>, there was an increase in the reported lifetime use of MDMA from 1996 (3%) to 1999 (9%). Reported current MDMA use rose as well from 3% to 6% over the past three years.



**Table 22.**  
**Lifetime and Current Illicit Drug Use by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1984-1999**

	<b>Grade 6:</b>		<b>Grades 7-8:</b>						<b>Grades 9-12</b>					
	<b>1996</b> n=1,121	<b>1999</b> n=1,154	<b>1984</b> n=262	<b>1987</b> n=734	<b>1990</b> n=785	<b>1993</b> n=1,954	<b>1996</b> n=2,046	<b>1999</b> n=2,354	<b>1984</b> n=5,078	<b>1987</b> n=1,549	<b>1990</b> n=1,334	<b>1993</b> n=3,367	<b>1996</b> n=3,633	<b>1999</b> n=3,472
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	21.5	13.0**	---	---	---	36.2	39.3	28.9**	---	---	---	51.7	61.8	56.9*
• Marijuana	5.9	3.0**	14.5	11.9	8.5	14.5	19.4	14.7*	51.2	42.6	35.4	38.2	51.7	50.3
• Inhalants	13.7	8.4*	17.7	14.3	9.0	24.7	23.8	17.3**	19.1	16.2	16.4	21.9	20.4	15.7**
• Psychedelics	0.8	1.1	4.6	2.2	1.5	3.3	3.0	4.3	15.5	10.2	9.4	8.4	15.4	17.2
• Narcotics	1.4	0.6*	5.3	4.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.8	11.0	9.8	9.4	5.5	8.4	9.6
• Cocaine/Crack	1.7	1.1	5.8	3.0	2.3	4.9	3.5	3.9	17.4	12.2	7.8	5.4	5.9	8.2**
• Tranquilizers	6.0	3.8	6.5	3.0	6.3	12.9	13.5	9.9*	24.1	13.8	6.3	7.3	11.8	11.5
• Steroids	1.8	1.3	---	---	---	3.2	2.5	3.1	---	---	---	2.1	2.3	3.8*
• MDMA	0.6	0.3	---	---	---	---	1.7	3.1	---	---	---	---	6.5	14.8**
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	6.6	3.5	---	---	---	16.6	15.9	12.6	---	---	---	28.9	37.0	34.1
• Marijuana	1.7	0.6*	4.7	4.7	1.8	6.9	9.9	7.6	27.7	21.1	16.0	23.1	33.4	30.2
• Inhalants	5.5	2.3*	7.6	3.8	3.2	9.5	7.1	5.7	3.8	3.0	4.2	6.2	5.2	4.3
• Psychedelics	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.4	1.0	1.2	1.8	4.8	3.4	3.2	3.3	5.2	6.6
• Narcotics	0.7	0.2	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.2	2.3	2.4	1.8	1.9	3.1	3.3
• Cocaine/Crack	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.8	0.5	1.4	1.3	2.0	7.4	4.7	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.4*
• Tranquilizers	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.8	3.6	4.5	3.1	2.5	1.5	4.5	5.0	8.5	8.6
• Steroids	0.1	0.5*	---	---	---	0.7	0.7	1.1	---	---	---	0.7	0.8	1.5*
• MDMA	0.0	0.2	---	---	---	---	1.0	1.2	---	---	---	---	1.8	7.1**

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1984-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)

**Table 23.**

**Lifetime and Current Illicit Drug Use by Grade and Gender  
Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	Grade 6				Grades 7-8				Grades 9-12			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
	1996 n=563	1999 n=555	1996 n=558	1999 n=580	1996 n=995	1999 n=1,146	1996 n=1,051	1999 n=1,122	1996 n=1,895	1999 n=1,759	1996 n=1,738	1999 n=1,564
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
• Any Drug	16.6	11.6	26.6	14.5**	36.8	26.1**	41.6	31.1**	60.9	52.5**	62.8	61.2
• Marijuana	2.7	1.4	9.4	4.5**	15.6	11.6	22.9	17.1*	49.1	44.6	54.5	56.3
• Inhalants	11.4	7.9	16.1	9.0	24.3	15.9**	23.4	18.1	19.8	14.5**	21.0	16.3*
• Psychedelics	0.6	0.1	1.1	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.5	5.0	12.6	12.7	18.5	22.0
• Narcotics	0.1	0.4	2.8	0.7**	2.3	2.1	3.6	3.0	7.6	7.1	9.2	11.9
• Cocaine/Crack	0.9	0.6	2.5	1.7	3.2	3.3	3.9	4.1	5.5	6.1	6.3	10.4**
• Tranquilizers	5.1	4.0	7.0	3.6	15.7	11.2*	11.5	8.2	27.0	19.2**	21.1	20.0
• Steroids	1.1	0.8	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.9	3.5	4.2	1.0	1.1	3.7	6.5**
• MDMA	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.2	2.7*	2.2	3.4	5.4	13.8**	7.7	16.0**
<b>Current Use</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
• Any Drug	4.0	2.6	9.4	4.5	14.9	12.0	16.8	12.9	35.4	28.1**	38.6	39.9
• Marijuana	0.4	0.1	8.3	2.9*	7.9	6.9	11.7	8.0	31.2	23.8**	35.7	36.9
• Inhalants	2.8	1.7	0.6	1.0	7.3	5.7	6.9	5.5	4.9	4.0	5.6	4.7
• Psychedelics	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.4	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.1	3.9	3.8	6.7	9.3
• Narcotics	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.8	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.4	2.8	2.5	3.4	4.1
• Cocaine/Crack	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.8	2.3	2.7	4.6*
• Tranquilizers	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.5*	5.8	3.2*	3.4	2.8	8.9	7.9	8.2	9.2
• Steroids	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.7*	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.3	1.2	2.7*
• MDMA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.0	6.0**	2.7	8.4**

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1984-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)

**Table 24.**  
**Lifetime and Current Illicit Drug Use by Race/Ethnicity, Grade 6**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	1996 n=492	1999 n=703	1996 n=270	1999 n=188	1996 n=268	1999 n=156	1996 n=46	1999 n=65
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	22.1	13.3**	21.0	17.8	14.4	8.8	23.2	7.3
• Marijuana	5.5	2.7*	13.8	7.4	7.1	3.2	0.7	0.0
• Inhalants	14.3	9.2	8.7	7.5	10.5	4.0	15.2	7.3
• Psychedelics	1.1	1.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0
• Narcotics	1.9	0.5*	0.0	1.3	0.4	1.3	0.0	0.0
• Cocaine/Crack	1.9	1.1	1.1	2.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.9
• Amphetamines	1.3	0.5	3.2	3.3	0.8	0.0	7.1	0.0
• Tranquilizers	6.9	4.1	1.1	3.3	5.4	5.3	1.4	0.0
• Steroids	1.8	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0
• Methamphetamine	2.0	0.8	1.5	1.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	2.6
• MDMA	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	7.8	3.3	4.4	6.2	3.5	3.6	0.0	4.7
• Marijuana	1.7	0.6	2.9	0.9	2.1	1.2	0.0	0.0
• Inhalants	7.0	2.1	2.1	3.1	1.0	2.6	0.0	4.7
• Psychedelics	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
• Narcotics	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0
• Cocaine/Crack	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
• Amphetamines	0.6	0.3	2.1	1.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
• Tranquilizers	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
• Steroids	0.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
• Methamphetamine	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
• MDMA	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)



**Table 25.**  
**Lifetime and Current Illicit Drug Use by Race/Ethnicity, Grades 7-8**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	1996 n=966	1999 n=1,470	1996 n=403	1999 n=307	1996 n=536	1999 n=368	1996 n=97	1999 n=158
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	39.5	27.8**	45.1	36.1	34.7	35.1	15.9	21.5
• Marijuana	18.0	13.3	28.0	22.3	26.4	20.0	3.9	8.9
• Inhalants	36.7	16.9**	11.1	19.8	13.1	19.8	10.7	13.3
• Psychedelics	3.4	4.4	0.9	1.4	3.0	5.5	0.9	3.9
• Narcotics	3.5	2.6	0.6	3.8**	1.4	2.3	1.1	4.0
• Cocaine/Crack	3.6	3.4	3.0	4.5	4.9	6.4	0.5	5.7**
• Amphetamines	4.2	4.1	6.3	8.2	4.1	6.4	0.0	3.4
• Tranquilizers	14.6	10.1*	9.7	6.3	8.5	11.1	3.0	8.5*
• Steroids	2.6	2.6	3.8	4.5	1.3	6.4**	0.5	1.8
• Methamphetamines	1.8	1.6	0.6	4.2**	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.9
• MDMA	2.0	2.7	0.6	4.0**	1.3	4.0*	1.0	3.6
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	15.9	11.5	16.0	18.2	19.4	17.2	2.4	7.4*
• Marijuana	9.1	7.0	13.0	11.3	16.2	9.8	1.0	3.9
• Inhalants	8.1	5.4	1.1	6.2**	5.8	8.5	0.5	4.1*
• Psychedelics	1.2	1.6	0.8	0.6	2.4	3.2	0.0	2.3
• Narcotics	1.4	1.0	0.3	1.5*	0.6	1.6	0.5	1.8
• Cocaine/Crack	1.5	1.5	0.3	2.6**	1.1	4.3**	0.0	2.2
• Amphetamines	1.6	1.3	2.7	4.3	3.1	4.5	0.0	2.2
• Tranquilizers	5.3	2.7*	1.3	4.6**	2.5	4.7	0.9	1.8
• Steroids	0.7	0.8	0.4	2.2*	1.0	2.1	0.0	1.8
• Methamphetamines	1.0	0.8	0.1	2.9**	0.9	2.1	0.5	1.1
• MDMA	1.1	1.0	0.3	1.4	0.8	1.4	0.5	1.5

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)

**Table 26.**  
***Lifetime and Current Illicit Drug Use by Race/Ethnicity, Grades 9-12***  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>		<b>Hispanic</b>		<b>Asian</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
	n=1,747	n=2,251	n=849	n=504	n=728	n=443	n=224	n=197
<b>Lifetime Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	62.9	59.3	60.8	52.8	61.3	45.2**	35.7	41.7
• Marijuana	52.3	52.5	53.9	46.7	53.7	41.2*	22.7	30.1
• Inhalants	22.3	17.4**	9.5	8.0	16.2	9.0*	7.3	13.1
• Psychedelics	17.2	19.6	6.0	8.5	7.8	8.9	6.8	6.0
• Narcotics	9.2	11.2	4.5	2.8	5.0	5.2	6.8	4.9
• Cocaine/Crack	6.0	9.2**	4.1	3.6	5.2	6.0	5.1	5.3
• Amphetamines	12.8	12.2	6.9	9.4	7.6	10.0	5.0	4.4
• Tranquilizers	26.1	22.1*	11.0	7.6	20.5	12.4*	16.6	11.5
• Steroids	2.3	4.2**	2.8	1.3	2.5	2.7	0.7	4.8**
• Methamphetamine	3.5	4.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.5	2.3
• MDMA	6.6	16.8**	4.5	5.0	7.3	10.2	2.9	8.6
<b>Current Use</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
• Any Drug	38.1	35.8	33.7	30.4	36.8	26.3*	16.8	22.3
• Marijuana	34.4	31.9	30.8	28.8	34.8	22.3**	12.3	16.3
• Inhalants	5.6	4.7	3.1	1.4	4.1	3.6	0.9	4.2**
• Psychedelics	6.0	7.5	2.8	3.1	1.2	3.2*	0.8	2.7
• Narcotics	3.1	3.7	4.3	1.8	0.7	1.8	5.4	3.3
• Cocaine/Crack	2.5	3.8*	1.0	1.8	1.0	1.2	0.3	2.5**
• Amphetamines	4.5	4.9	2.5	2.0	1.7	4.4	2.7	0.7
• Tranquilizers	9.2	9.7	5.1	4.0	4.1	4.9	6.4	3.4
• Steroids	0.8	1.7*	1.0	0.6	0.3	1.6*	0.2	0.9
• Methamphetamine	1.0	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.5	1.1	2.7	1.8
• MDMA	1.7	7.9**	1.1	3.2	1.8	4.1	2.5	6.4

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)

**Table 27.**  
**Average Age of First Illicit Drug Use Other than Marijuana, Grades 7-12**  
**Massachusetts: 1999, 1993-1999**

	Gender		Ethnicity				1993	1996	1999
	Female n=521	Male n=646	White n=865	Black n=127	Hispanic n=134	Asian n=57	Total n=742	Total n=946	Total n=1,211
<b>Average Age</b>	13.6	13.4	13.8	12.9	12.5	12.6	13.1	13.5	13.6

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

Note: Average age of first use in years for those students who reported having used illicit drugs other than marijuana.

**Table 28.**  
**Average Age of First Marijuana Use, Grades 7-12**  
**Massachusetts: 1999, 1993-1999**

	Gender		Ethnicity				1993	1996	1999
	Female n=902	Male n=1,042	White n=1,363	Black n=291	Hispanic n=256	Asian n=70	Total n=1,596	Total n=2,222	Total n=2,036
<b>Average Age</b>	13.4	13.0	13.3	13.2	12.5	13.3	13.7	13.4	13.2

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1993-1999

Note: Average age of first use in years for those students who reported having used marijuana.

**Table 29.**  
**Students Reporting that People “Greatly Risk Harming Themselves” by Occasionally Using Drugs, By Individual Grades**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b> n=1,154	<b>Grade 7</b> n=1,171	<b>Grade 8</b> n=1,183	<b>Grade 9</b> n=926	<b>Grade 10</b> n=970	<b>Grade 11</b> n=864	<b>Grade 12</b> n=712
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Smoking Marijuana</b>	54.5	50.8	36.2	21.6	19.2	14.5	14.7
<b>Using Crack Cocaine</b>	61.1	61.3	57.8	57.7	62.6	67.3	71.7
<b>Using Heroin</b>	62.8	65.2	62.7	67.2	74.4	78.9	81.1
<b>Using Inhalants</b>	52.6	47.0	44.3	45.6	48.5	55.4	57.6

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

**Table 30.**  
**Students Reporting that People “Greatly Risk Harming Themselves” by Occasionally Using Drugs, By Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1996-1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b> n=1,121	<b>1999</b> n=1,154	<b>1996</b> n=2,046	<b>1999</b> n=2,354	<b>1996</b> n=3,633	<b>1999</b> n=3,472
<b>Smoking Marijuana</b>	53.7	54.5	46.6	43.5	20.3	17.8
<b>Using Crack Cocaine</b>	61.2	61.1	64.5	59.5**	91.9	64.3**
<b>Using Heroin</b>	60.1	62.8	69.0	63.9**	80.6	74.9**
<b>Using Inhalants</b>	45.1	52.6*	46.3	45.6	51.5	51.3

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.05 (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at p<.01 (chi-square)



**Table 31.**  
***Lifetime and Current Student Smokers Reporting Drug Use Caused a Problem***  
***Grades 7-12***  
***Massachusetts 1999***

	<b><i>Grades 7-12</i></b>	
	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Lifetime Any Drug Use</b>	2,284	19.5
<b>Current Any Drug Use</b>	1,387	23.3
<b>Lifetime Marijuana Use</b>	2,012	20.5
<b>Current Marijuana Use</b>	1,171	23.7
<b>Lifetime Polydrug Use <sup>a</sup></b>	710	31.8
<b>Current Polydrug Use <sup>b</sup></b>	281	34.9

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

*Note: Only includes those students who have used drugs.*

<sup>a</sup> Used three or more illicit drugs at least once in lifetime

<sup>b</sup> Used three or more illicit drugs at least once in past 30 days

**Table 32.**  
**Students Reporting Ease of Obtaining Illicit Drugs by Grade**  
**Massachusetts: 1999**

	<b>Grade 6</b> n=1,154	<b>Grade 7</b> n=1,171	<b>Grade 8</b> n=1,183	<b>Grade 9</b> n=926	<b>Grade 10</b> n=970	<b>Grade 11</b> n=864	<b>Grade 12</b> n=712
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Marijuana</b>	8.7	19.9	43.3	67.4	76.7	87.9	87.9
<b>Psychedelics</b>	4.5	7.9	15.3	36.5	45.2	54.8	59.8
<b>Amphetamines</b>	5.9	11.1	17.4	33.1	39.0	42.2	45.5
<b>Tranquilizers</b>	14.4	21.2	34.9	48.3	52.0	60.9	60.6
<b>Cocaine</b>	4.7	9.4	13.6	25.9	25.3	31.1	33.9
<b>Crack</b>	5.7	9.5	14.7	27.6	24.1	26.7	28.3
<b>Narcotics</b>	3.8	8.1	11.8	21.6	22.8	26.7	32.3
<b>Steroids</b>	9.3	13.5	21.3	38.1	43.6	46.1	50.6
<b>Methamphetamines</b>	4.3	7.3	10.3	21.0	21.7	24.6	29.8
<b>MDMA</b>	3.5	7.5	13.1	35.3	44.9	61.7	66.5
<b>Ketamine</b>	6.3	10.2	13.0	24.7	28.4	34.9	41.1
<b>GHB</b>	4.2	7.1	10.7	25.4	26.5	37.6	37.9
<b>Ritalin</b>	6.9	14.8	27.3	40.0	45.4	49.3	51.8

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1999

Note: Includes students reporting that it is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get cigarettes.

**Table 33.**  
***Students Reporting Intentions to Use Drugs in Next Year by Grade***  
***Massachusetts: 1996-1999***

	<b>Grade 6</b>		<b>Grades 7-8</b>		<b>Grades 9-12</b>	
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1999</b>
		%		%		%
<b>“Definitely or Probably Yes”</b>	5.3	3.0**	16.3	14.0	40.3	40.0
<b>“Definitely or Probably No”</b>	94.6	97.0**	83.7	86.1	59.7	60.0

Source: Triennial Prevalence Survey, MDPH, BSAS, 1996-1999

\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .05$  (chi-square)

\*\* Significant difference between 1996 and 1999 at  $p < .01$  (chi-square)